

## Iraq emerges Group A leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq Sunday beat China 1-0 to emerge on top of the Asian Group A World Cup qualifying matches of the group's first round played in Irbid. Ahmad Radi scored the goal in the 47th minute. The second round of the group will begin in China on June 12. Iraq led the group with seven points from four games, beating Pakistan and Yemen and drawing with Jordan. Earlier Sunday, Jordan scored its first win of the first round, scoring three goals to one (see story on page 9).

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

## Happy 'Eid Al Adha

THE JORDAN TIMES will not be published on Tuesday to Friday (June 1 - June 4), on account of the 'Eid Al Adha' holidays. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Saturday, June 5. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a very happy 'Eid Al Adha'.

Volume 17 Number 5321

AMMAN MONDAY, MAY 31, 1993 THUL HIJEH 10, 1413

Price: 150 Fils

## UAE president sends message to Iran

DUBAI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan sent a letter Sunday to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on relations between their two states, locked in a dispute over three strategic Gulf islands. The official Emirates News Agency said the letter was delivered by the United Arab Emirates ambassador in Tehran to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Mr. Velayati toured Gulf Arab states last week to try to improve his country's ties with its neighbours and delivered a letter from Mr. Rafsanjani to Sheikh Zayed during his stop in the UAE. Mr. Velayati said after his talks in the UAE that he and officials had agreed to resume talks to settle the dispute.

## Iran rejects Kuwaiti criticism

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper attacked Kuwait Sunday for calling Iran an expansionist state, saying such criticism was inspired by the United States. "Such foolish and unwarranted utterances from the official Kuwait News Agency is at the instance and instigation of a foreign hand," Tehran's Kayhan International said about comments published by KUNA on May 25. "Kuwait is Washington's protegee, and the needle of suspicion points to America, whose anti-Iran, or rather anti-Islamic stance is clearly reflected in its Middle East policy," KUNA, in a report on the arrival of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati for a two-day stay, urged Iran to solve its disputes with Gulf Arab neighbours and end what it called expansionism and infiltration into neighbouring states.

## Union urges mercy for Egyptian militants

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's engineers' syndicate, dominated by Muslim fundamentalists, has urged President Hosni Mubarak to reduce 22 death and 59 prison sentences passed on Muslim militants by military courts. The syndicate said it was making the appeal on the occasion of Monday's Feast of Sacrifice, which marks the climax of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and is a time when rulers traditionally show clemency to prisoners. "The freedoms committee of the engineers' syndicate appeals to Your Excellency to use your powers and authority to reduce the sentences passed on defendants in the cases which have been tried by military courts, since they are your sons and the sons of beloved Egypt," the letter to Mr. Mubarak said. The letter, a copy of which was sent to Reuters Saturday night, added: "Reducing the sentences will encourage the nation to come together and unite to confront its enemies' designs."

## Pakistan arrests 3 drug smugglers

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan customs officials arrested three people Sunday after they tried to smuggle two kilograms of heroin aboard a flight to Britain, the official APP news agency said. Acting on a tip-off, customs officials found the heroin hidden in a secret compartment of a briefcase carried by a 17-year-old as he tried to board a flight to Manchester. Two Pakistani accomplices were arrested soon after. Customs officials said the youth was part of a ring alleged to be run by a Pakistani shopowner in Manchester, APP said.

## Rebels attack Sri Lankan army post

COLOMBO (R) — About 300 Tamil rebels, half of them women dressed in blue military fatigues, attacked an army post in eastern Sri Lanka, killing five soldiers, a witness and military sources said Sunday. Four soldiers were wounded in Saturday's attack on the 20-member garrison guarding the village of Jayanthiyaya in the Batticaloa district, military sources said. One of the injured soldiers, I.G. Gumaratne, said from his hospital bed that about 300 rebels were involved in the attack which broke a month-long lull in rebel strikes.

# Two million perform Haj

Combined agency dispatches

UP TO TWO million Muslims gathered at Mount Arafat in Saudi Arabia Sunday for the climax of the annual Haj pilgrimage, mostly unaware of bitter exchanges between Iran and the Saudi guardians of Islam's holiest shrines. Pilgrims said the vast majority of their number appeared to know nothing about a war of words that broke out after conservative Saudi Arabia barred Iranian pilgrims from holding an anti-Western rally on Thursday. Preoccupied with their devotions, pilgrims covered in seamless white robes spent the night in air-conditioned tents at Mena, one of the main steps of the pilgrimage.

At dawn on Sunday, they started their ascent to nearby Mount Arafat where the Prophet Mohammad delivered his farewell sermon 1,400 years ago. In a live broadcast on Saudi television, they chanted in unison: "Lubayk... Allabnma Lubayk... la Shareek Lak (I have answered your call, oh God, here

I am. There is no God but you)."

The pilgrims said Saudi security forces surrounded Iran's Haj headquarters on the outskirts of Mecca Thursday to abort the rally in an operation so discreet and well-executed that hardly anyone in Mecca was aware of it. This drew harsh criticism from Iran's Shiite Muslim rulers — a tirade unmatched since bloody clashes in 1987 between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces in which more than 400 people died in central Mecca.

Despite the rhetoric, Iran's 120,000 pilgrims have remained peaceful. But Tehran Radio said students at Tehran University on Sunday held a campus demonstration condemning the Saudi ban which they said in a statement would "lead to nothing but discord and dispute among Muslims."

The radio said the students marched around the campus chanting anti-U.S. slogans and reciting parts of a message by Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei criticising the Saudi ban. Saudi officials say about one

million Muslims, 43 per cent of them women, have travelled to the kingdom to join another million Saudi citizens and residents working in the oil-rich state in performing this year's Haj.

The Iranians, dressed like all the Hajis in seamless white robes, blended with the rest of the throngs atop Mount Arafat, where all prayed in unison. The ritual climaxes the Haj, which emulates steps of the Prophet Mohammad 1413 years ago by the Islamic calendar.

By sunset, the pilgrims trek back to Mecca via the plane of Mina, symbolically stoning the devil along the way by throwing pebbles at three special pillars. In Mecca, they visit the Grand Mosque and circumambulate its Kaaba.

At dawn Monday, they will slaughter sheep and start the three-day 'Eid Al Adha in commemoration of Prophet Abraham's offering of his son to God.

Prince Majed, a brother of King Fahd supervising the rituals, said the Haj proceeded "in excellent condition," and the security situation was "very calm, with

nothing whatsoever disturbing it."

General Ahmad Ben Mohamad Bilal, director of Saudi security, said there were no traffic congestion or other major obstacles in moving the pilgrims atop Mount Arafat.

A leading Saudi cleric condemned use of terrorism to spread Islam as he preached atop Mount Arafat.

"Never ever was terrorism a facet of the call to the faith, or a means to it," said Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ben Abdullah Al Sheikh, a member of the Supreme Council of Ulemas, or religious theologians in the kingdom.

"The call to Allah is one of sincerity, patience, honesty and kindness over unity of the word and harmony and unifying of the hearts," Sheikh Abdul Aziz said. Muslims should be one nation, and not as seen today Muslims destroying Muslims, he said, warning that enemies of Islam use "the weak of spirit" among them for their own objectives.

The sermon was channelled by Saudi satellite to various parts of the Muslim World.

## Israelis kill two, rocket Gaza homes

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli troops hunting for Palestinian activists killed two Palestinians and fired anti-tank missiles at evacuated houses in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, Palestinian and Israeli security sources said.

"The army surrounded a few houses (in Gaza City) and started rocketing them and killed two members of the Qassem (military wing of the Islamic movement Hamas) and captured one," a security source said. He gave no further details.

Palestinian residents said the army scoured off a Northern Gaza neighbourhood early on Sunday and evacuated and rocketed about 10 houses. Roofs and building stones could be seen flying through the air, they said. An army helicopter hovered over the scene.

Three Hamas men, members of Qassem, refused to come out of one of the houses and exchanged fire with Israeli troops from 8:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) to 4 p.m. (0100 GMT). Troops eventually killed two of the Hamas

men in the gunfire, the Palestinians said. They did not know what happened to the third man. Palestinians named the dead men as Raved Al Hallak of Gaza City and Ibrahim Ashur of Rafah. They said the third man's name was Mohammad Syam.

Earlier Sunday, Jewish settlers shot and wounded two Palestinian women and a three-year-old boy in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

The army said masked Palestinians had stoned the settler before they opened fire. They were walking to pray at Hebron's Machpela Cave, site of the Tomb of the Patriarchs sacred to both Jews and Muslims.

Doctors at Alia Hospital in Hebron said the two women were shot and the boy was wounded by bullet fragments. They were in moderate condition.

On Friday, unknown assailants stabbed to death a Jewish seminary student on his way to pray at Machpela Cave.

The streets of Hebron were deserted Sunday, a Reuters photographer in the town said.

## Rabin says coalition crisis is near an end

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he hoped to resolve a month-long government crisis at an emergency cabinet session called for Sunday night.

"I hope the willingness shown by Shas and Meretz (two coalition parties in dispute) to find a solution to the crisis will find expression by this evening," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio before the first of two cabinet sessions Sunday.

Mr. Rabin had said his government would be weakened and Middle East peace talks disrupted if the ultra-religious Shas carried out a threat to quit the government.

Shas wants the outspokenly secular head of the dovish Meretz Party Shulamit Aloni out of her job as education minister.

Mr. Rabin did not say how he would settle the row. Political sources said it was likely to end in a cabinet reshuffle.

Without the six-member Shas, Mr. Rabin would be left with only a 61 majority in the 120-member parliament, based on backing

from five Arab legislators who are not in the cabinet.

That could prevent Mr. Rabin from making the bold moves he needs to make at the peace table.

"This is a crisis that has nothing to do with the main issues which the government has set as national goals to achieve," Mr. Rabin told Israel Radio.

Mr. Rabin faces a possible walkout by Shas' senior minister, Aryeh Deri, who has threatened anew to resign unless Ms. Aloni is demoted to the education post.

The feud has little to do with peace efforts. It stems from a longstanding cultural chasm between Israel's powerful ultra-religious minority and the country's secular majority.

Shas' spiritual leader and former chief Sephardic Rabbi Ovadia Yosef demanded Ms. Aloni's ouster in early May after Ms. Aloni was quoted as recommending that Mr. Rabin not say a prayer while attending a war memorial at the site of the An-

(Continued on page 3)

# Majali's appointment signals Jordan's continued commitment to peace talks

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — King Hussein, angry at growing opposition in Jordan to Arab-Israeli peace talks, has renewed his commitment to the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process.

Officials said the King, who swore in his chief negotiator as head of a caretaker government on Saturday, was sending a strong signal to pan-Arabists, leftists and Muslim radicals who reject the talks.

He was, they added, particularly keen to prevent the peace talks becoming an issue in Jordan's November general election — the first multi-party parliamentary poll since 1957.

"We shall continue striving to achieve the comprehensive and undivided peace hoping that the efforts of the enemies of peace wherever they are found will not succeed in destroying the chances for achieving it," the King told Abdul Salam Al Majali when he took over as prime minister Saturday.

The peace talks, launched with great fanfare in Madrid in October 1991, have produced few concrete results — sparking calls for Israel's Arab foes to leave the negotiating table.

In Jordan, many groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, which holds the biggest single bloc in Parliament, have made opposition to the talks a key issue ahead of the election.

But the appointment of Dr. Majali highlights the King's

commitment to the peace process ahead of a new round of negotiations in Washington in June.

"The formation of this government means a total focus on the peace process and the ongoing talks," wrote Al-Dustour newspaper columnist Saleh Qalab Sunday. "Selecting Majali means giving the peace option a new boost."

Officials said they expected little change from the policies of the previous government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, including Jordan's adherence to wide-ranging economic reforms and efforts to improve ties with Gulf Arab states.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Mr. Ben Shaker and his cabinet, almost half of whom will run in the elections, resigned Saturday.

Officials said the new prime minister, relying on the experience he has gained in the negotiations so far, will play an active role in the peace talks. In an unusual move, he will also hold the foreign affairs portfolio.

This, officials add, will enable him to take immediate decisions needed by Jordan's team in what is expected to be a key phase of the negotiations.

Delegates have complained in private that on many occasions they were left without clear instructions and lacked

adequate logistical support. Jordan and Israel are, they say, close to agreement on a joint draft accord outlining the principles of a settlement — the most visible sign of progress yet in the talks which also involve Syria, Lebanon and a Palestinian delegation.

But agreement on that has been stalled by deadlock over interim self-rule plan for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In Tel Aviv, Israel's chief negotiator Sunday wished Dr. Majali success and hailed him as a man committed to Middle East peace.

Cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein, speaking to reporters after the government's weekly meeting, welcomed the appointment of Dr. Majali.

"We have had differences of opinions but he was always fair and diplomatic. He is a true Jordanian diplomat and he is strongly committed to the peace process," said Mr. Rubinstein, who also serves as head of Israel's peace negotiations team with Jordan and the Palestinians.

"We wish him success in his new post. It is very pleasant to work with him," Mr. Rubinstein said.

Officials and diplomats say Dr. Majali's professionalism and negotiating skills over the past 18 months have won him the respect of his Israeli counterparts and the Palestinian delegation attending the talks in a joint team with Jordan.



The Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali holds its first session Sunday (Petra photo)

## New Cabinet adopts plan of action

AMMAN (Petra) — The new government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali held its first meeting Sunday during which Cabinet members had a comprehensive review of the contents of His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation.

The letter contained general outlines for the government's strategy and plan of work at the domestic and external levels.

The Cabinet also reviewed Dr. Majali's written reply to the King in which he pledged total compliance with the royal directives, stressing that the government would work in concert with a view to achieving the highest objectives and will ensure equality for all citizens in rights and obligations during its mandate.

Addressing the Cabinet, Dr. Majali stressed the common principles which all government departments should uphold and respect to serve the highest national goals and protect national interests.

The cabinet approved several measures pertaining on internal affairs and endorsed an action plan.

It was also announced that the new ministers and their counterparts in the outgoing cabinet will hold separate meetings to exchange views on matters related to their respective administrations and for the handover of all plans and ideas of the former government.

A Cabinet statement said that this measure was needed to guarantee the smooth resumption of government business once the 'Eid Al Adha holiday is over and departments re-open for normal business on Saturday.

Also Sunday, Dr. Majali and his colleagues in the new government were visited by representatives of public and private organisations.

Outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and former Cabinet members as well as the speakers of Parliament, deputies and former government ministers and secretaries-general of various ministries were among those who visited the Prime Ministry.

Also calling were heads of the Civil Department, trade and professional unions, presidents of Jordanian universities, tribal leaders, and representatives of Muslim and Christian communities and Palestinian refugee camps along with heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions in Jordan.

The prime minister and his colleagues will be available Monday, the first day of 'Eid Al Adha, until noon to receive visitors.

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## Khartoum rejects plan for rebel 'safe havens'

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government will not agree to the creation of 'safe havens' in the insurgency-hit south, the state news agency SUNA reported Sunday.

It quoted Foreign Minister Hussein Abu Salih as telling U.S. Ambassador Donald Petterson that Sudanese could resolve their own problems through dialogue and the government rejects any attempt to internationalise the problem in southern Sudan.

Mr. Petterson returned recently from Nairobi, Kenya where he met the two main factions of the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). He also visited parts of the south.

He was reported to have discussed with the SPLA the setting up of 'safe havens' to enable voluntary organisations and United Nations agencies to deliver food and medicine to needy people.

Mr. Abu Salih told Mr. Petterson the government was keen to continue negotiations with the rebels, SUNA said.

The government and SPLA met in the Nigerian capital Abuja on April 26 for peace talks but after three weeks of discussions they agreed on little more than a pledge to meet again.

Dispute over mosque

In Cairo, the religious wing of Sudan's main opposition movement has appealed to supporters to pray at home on Monday's feast of sacrifice because the Islamic government has seized their mosque in Omdurman.

The government said on Thursday it was taking control of the Khalifa Mosque and the Tomb of the Mahdi, who led a nationalist revolt last century, to prevent the opposition using them for political activities.

## Muslim fundamentalists enter Yemen government

SANAA (AP) — Four members of the Muslim fundamentalists Al Islah party were appointed to a new, 29-member cabinet Sunday, entering government for the first time after making a strong showing in parliamentary elections.

The appointments marked a broadening of the ruling coalition in the country, ruled since 1990 by the Conservative General People's Congress (GPC) and the leftist Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP).

Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, a Socialist, banded Al Islah politicians the portfolios of local administration, supply and commerce, health and religious endowments.

The number of cabinet portfolios was cut from 35 to 29 and the YSP now has only half as many ministries as in the last government.

The new cabinet included nine YSP members including the pre-

mier, and 16 conservatives. The two parties kept the key portfolios of foreign affairs, defence, interior, industry and oil, with some reshuffling and some new faces.

Although Mr. Islah got only four ministries, its leader has been elected speaker of parliament.

The party seeks the introduction of Islamic law as the basis for legislation. It also has demanded the closure of a beer factory in Aden and a slowing of Westernisation.

Al Islah, led by prominent northern tribal leader Sheikh Abdullah Hussain Al Ahmar and fiery Muslim preacher Abdul Mujeed Al Zindani, emerged strong from the first multi-party elections held April 27, securing 63 of the 301 parliamentary seats.

That was seven seats more than the 56 secured by the YSP

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## Mubarak never said cleric was CIA agent — paper

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian newspaper apologised yesterday for quoting President Hosni Mubarak as saying that Muslim militant leader Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, who lives in the United States, was a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent.

Mahfouz Al Ansari, editor of El Gomhuria, said in a front-page article that a report last Thursday had been wrong to quote Mr. Mubarak as telling editors that Sheikh Abdul Rahman still received a CIA salary and had been given a visa to the United States because of his intelligence work.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman is spiritual leader of militants waging a violent campaign to overthrow Mr. Mubarak and has been linked with February's car bomb attack on the World Trade Centre in New York.

Mr. Ansari made no apology for Egyptian suspicions that Washington was hiding the truth about Sheikh Abdul Rahman and said many articles in U.S. and European newspapers suggested he had in fact worked for the CIA.

"A confusion happened and a mistake was made," Mr. Ansari wrote. "I attributed these comments to the president but in fact they came in the analysis, explanations and information which the editors put before the president, quoting American newspapers and media."

It would be very embarrassing for Egypt if Mr. Mubarak openly accused the United States of supporting Sheikh Abdul Rahman. The United States is Egypt's most important ally and gives it more than \$2 billion a year in aid.

"Egyptian officials, struggling to end militant gun and bomb attacks that have killed 75 people and devastated Egypt's tourist industry since March last year, have complained for months that the United States has been too welcoming to the blind preacher."

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, tried but acquitted of blessing the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981, left Egypt in 1989 and spent a year in Pakistan, mainly base for Afghan guerrillas during the 1980s, before moving to New Jersey.

The officials believe that the militant groups in Egypt are largely directed by men who fought alongside the rebels against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul. The biggest groups were based in Pakistan, armed by the United States and



Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman

financed by Gulf oil states.

The war ended in victory for the rebels a year ago and Arab guerrillas turned their attention to Islamic revolution at home, particularly in Algeria and Egypt.

Mr. Ansari's original report Thursday gave a full and direct quotation from Mr. Mubarak, and Al Ahram Al Massa'i, the evening edition of Egypt's most respected daily, also said the president named Sheikh Abdul Rahman as a U.S. agent.

"The president was asked about the story of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. He said: 'Let him stay there (the United States). He went on American television and attacked me, even insulted me. This was the first time I had seen him.'

"I did not reply to him. The sheikh has been an agent of the American intelligence apparatus since the days of Afghanistan. He went to Pesbawar and spoke about holy struggle. He gets a continuing salary and the 'visa' which he obtained was not issued by mistake. It was because he had performed specific services."

"There is a dispute between American intelligence and the internal security apparatus. They are trying to deport him but if he confesses in court that he provided services to America they will let him stay. This is his story," the newspaper report said.

The morning edition of Al Ahram on Saturday quoted U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher as denying Sheikh Abdul Rahman was employed by the CIA.

Mr. Ansari said Mr. Mubarak refrained from getting involved in the discussions on the sheikh.

"The president only stressed his keenness to maintain good relations with all countries including the United States."

At another point, Mr. Ansari said Mr. Mubarak emphasised that Cairo and Washington "maintain strong and firm relationship" and that he and U.S. President Bill Clinton developed "a great understanding" during a recent visit Mr. Mubarak made to Washington.

However, Mr. Ansari provided no direct quotes by Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak held two meetings Wednesday to observe Media Day, an annual government celebration of Egyptian journalists. Around 600 people attended one session, selected editors, commentators and intellectuals the other.

On such occasions Cairo's normally uncensored media are held closely to guidelines on what to report. After Wednesday's general session, for instance, Information Minister Sawfat Al Sherif briefed journalists on which of the president's comments should be reported.

Mr. Ansari's unbylined article said the purported comments about Sheikh Abdul Rahman's services to the CIA were from the session with senior journalists.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who has lived in the United States since 1990, has been tried and acquitted three times in Egypt on Muslim extremist charges.

Suspects in the World Trade Centre bombings have worshipped at a New Jersey mosque where Sheikh Abdul Rahman is a preacher.

Despite denials in Cairo and Washington, Sheikh Abdul Rahman's residence in the United States is thought to be an irritant in close U.S.-Egyptian relations.

"There is a cloud, definitely," political commentator Mohamed Sid Ahmad, whose politics are left of centre, said Saturday. He told the Associated Press that Egypt feels the Clinton administration is less supportive of its problems or the Middle East peace process than previous administrations.

And about Sheikh Abdul Rahman, he said, "There have been misunderstandings, misinterpretations and mutual recriminations."

But presidential spokesman Mohammed Abdul Monem said Mr. Mubarak's relations with the Clinton administration are "very strong, ... excellent."

## Syria denies barring Jewish emigration

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria, denying that it obstructs Jewish emigration, said Sunday that departures had been checked by the hardships migrants faced abroad.

"Many Jews have decided to stay home in Syria because of the discouraging experiences of their friends," said the official newspaper Tishreen.

Some Jewish emigrants are even thinking of returning, it said.

American Jewish organisations and the U.S. government complained last week that Jewish emigration from Syria, made possible by a change of regulations in 1992, had been choked off again.

Syria had about 4,000 Jews in 1991. According to U.S. estimates, 2,600 left last year when Damascus, in response to American pleas, dropped a rule that family members could not travel abroad at the same time.

American Jewish groups say the one-at-a-time rule was reimposed this year.

Tishreen said the latest complaint over the issue was "a false accusation launched by the Zionist lobby."

"There has been no alteration in travel procedures. Syrian Jews are citizens who enjoy all the rights of other Syrians."

Syrian Jews who went recently to the United States, Canada and Venezuela faced great difficulties, Tishreen said.

"The Jewish migrants were badly frustrated because they did not find work in the United States. Some who had practised medicine in Damascus for dozens of years found their credentials were not accepted and were not allowed to practise."

"Even Syrian Jewish businessmen who closed their stores in Damascus and Aleppo were still unemployed (abroad), in contrast with the excellent living they had in Syria," Tishreen said.

None of the Syrian Jews had immigrated to Israel, the paper said. "Their contacts at home are unbroken and some are thinking of coming back."

## Kuwait says more troops to deploy on Iraq border

KUWAIT (R) — Greek, Argentinean and Bangladeshi troops will deploy along the Kuwait-Iraq border in the next few weeks to help the United Nations guarantee the recently demarcated land-and-sea frontier, a Kuwaiti official said.

Suleiman Al Shaheen, Foreign Ministry under-secretary, said in a statement to the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Saturday:

"A Greek military team, as well as technicians and soldiers from Argentina and Bangladesh, will arrive in Kuwait in the next few weeks to help in the implementation of U.N. resolutions regarding the demarcation of the

border."

The statement did not say how many troops would be sent.

The U.N. Security Council Thursday issued a new guarantee of the international border between Kuwait and Iraq, saying in a unanimous resolution that the decisions of a U.N. boundary commission which recently completed its work were final.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and claimed it as its 19th province. A U.S.-backed alliance of Western and Arab armies drove out Iraqi troops in February 1991.

The U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), which

has 247 lightly-armed military observers stationed in the demilitarised zone along the 207-kilometre land border, said it had had no official notice of the impending arrivals.

A spokesman said UNIKOM was still waiting for a mechanised battalion of 775 soldiers and support staff the U.N. Security Council decided in February to send to reinforce UNIKOM's observer mission.

The U.S. earlier this year decided to extend UNIKOM's mandate to permit it to take physical action to prevent small-scale incursions into the demilitarised zone.

Media reports have said the 775 reinforcements had not been sent because no country had expressed readiness to provide the units. But the UNIKOM spokesman said: "Nothing has been dropped, we are still waiting for the battalion."

The spokesman said he could not say if the reported arrivals constituted the UNIKOM reinforcements mandated by the U.N.

Kuwait also says 620 nationals who went missing during the crisis are in Iraq, along with up to 200 third country nationals who had been living in Kuwait. Iraq denies holding any Kuwaitis.

## Resistance fires rockets at 'security zone,' Israel, allies shell village

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli and allied forces pounded a South Lebanon ridge on Sunday after guerrillas fired rockets at a militia post, security sources said.

They said seven Katyusha rockets targeted the South Lebanon Army (SLA) position at Sojoud hill on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone."

SLA and Israeli gunners retaliated by firing more than 50 heavy artillery shells into Iqlim Al Toufah, a mountainous ridge to the north where pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas are active.

There were no reports of casualties in the exchanges. Guerrillas have in recent

weeks stepped up their attacks on Israeli and SLA forces in the 15-kilometre deep zone, killing two Israeli soldiers and four militiamen this month.

Sources said none of the SLA militiamen manning the Sojoud position was hurt in Sunday's attack.

Hizbollah released a statement claiming responsibility for Sunday's attack on Sojoud. The communiqué said "a large number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded."

Hizbollah, which like Iran has vowed to sabotage the U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process, is the principal among several Palestinian and Lebanese groups engaged in a guerrilla warfare to dislodge Israel from the "security

zone."

Hizbollah's operations have escalated in the south since the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks opened in Washington April 20. The talks, which ended three weeks later, failed to produce a breakthrough.

At least 37 people have been killed and 123 wounded in South Lebanon hostilities this year, which have included 15 Israeli air strikes and a naval attack.

Israel carved out the 1,100-square-kilometre security zone in 1985 to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The zone is routinely patrolled by 1,500 Israeli troops and 3,000 SLA militiamen.

## Israel approves Libyan pilgrimage

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said Sunday that it would for the first time permit a pilgrimage by about 200 Muslims from Libya, officially at war with the Jewish state.

Tourism ministry spokeswoman Michal Cohen said the pilgrims, now in Cairo, would arrive from Egypt by the Rafah crossing point to the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

"This is first time that Libyan pilgrims are arriving in Israel," Ms. Cohen said.

She said it was unclear when the pilgrims would arrive but the ministry was planning for a three-day visit, mainly to Muslim holy sites.

Israeli officials played down any suggestion of a breakthrough in relations but hoped the visit, arranged by a private tourism company, would prompt further Muslim pilgrimages from Arab countries.

Israeli newspapers said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi apparently hoped the gesture would improve relations with the United States, Israel's closest ally.

The United States and Britain are pressuring Libya to hand over for trial two Libyan men suspected of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Scotland.

"We began it as a religious pilgrimage and nothing else," Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Eviatar Manor said.

"They've asked to make a pilgrimage to their holy places in Jerusalem. We've always said we shall keep open all the religious places to all the religions. We are keeping to our word," he said.

Mr. Manor said Washington had not objected to the Libyan visit when told about it by the Israelis.

## 4 prisoners freed from Khiam

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Four Shiite Muslim detainees were freed from a prison inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" Sunday, security sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the four men were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in early afternoon.

No explanation was given for the release of Rida Dawi, Ali Kassein, Mohammad Dawi and Mufid Barakat, which brought to 25 the number of detainees discharged from the Khiam prison since March 23.

Some 300, mainly Lebanese Shiites, are held at Khiam. Israel's surrogate 3,000-strong South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia guards the prison and

helps the 1,500 Israeli troops that police the "security zone."

The Shiite Muslim, Syrian-backed Amal militia said May 17 that the previous releases came after the party had allowed the ICRC to examine the bodies of two Israeli soldiers the group claimed it held.

But autopsy results announced Thursday by the Israeli military command showed the bodies were not those of the Israeli soldiers.

Israel has been seeking the return of six servicemen missing in Lebanon. All but one, Ron Arad, are believed dead.

Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz disappeared June 11, 1982, the fifth day of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Yossi Fink and Rahamim

Alsheikh were captured Feb. 17, 1986, when Lebanese guerrillas ambushed their patrol in the "security zone." Israel says it has since received information that both died in captivity.

Arad, who was captured Oct. 16, 1986, after his jet was shot down over South Lebanon, is believed held by Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in east Lebanon.

The Iranian-backed Hizbollah, which claimed the abduction of Fink and Alsheikh, has demanded the release of all the Khiam prisoners in exchange for the corpses.

The SLA says at least 12 of its militiamen are held by Hizbollah and has demanded that they be included in any swap accord.

## Somalia's young suffer combat fatigue

By Jonathan Ewing  
Reuters

MOGADISHU — By day, Mohammad is shy and withdrawn. By night, he is haunted by dreams of death.

Mohammad is a veteran of the two-year war that tore Somalia apart, a battle-hardened casualty at the tender age of 12. Once he rode a "technical," the battle wagons of the Somali civil war, machinegun carriers improvised out of jeeps or trucks.

"Clan militias commonly included hundreds of boys as young as 10 or 12," said Jim Shanor, a consultant with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

"Normally these children no longer recognise right from wrong, and they don't trust anyone."

Some 30,000 troops from more than two dozen countries have largely restored law and order in Somalia to give the people and their

benefactors a chance to rebuild the country.

But very little thought has yet been given to rehabilitating children who, like Mohammad, spent the prime of their youth looking down the sights of an AK-47 assault rifle or firing off grenades.

"We don't see the problem as critical yet," said an official of the U.S. government agency USAID, "and have made no plans to address them here in Somalia."

Mohammad called what he did "work," but doesn't say much more. Everyone knows that the technicals lived off guarding relief workers by day and plundering them and their stores at night.

Mohammad is a lucky one. He goes to school. There are thousands more who do not and whose future looks as cloudy as their immediate past.

They hang around road junctions in gangs to pounce upon open trucks and steal what they can before melting

into the dust or to grab sunglasses from the U.N. force new policing Somalia.

The sunglasses can be sold in dark alleys for cash to buy food, clothes or kat, the green leaf drug that most Somali males over 11 years chew for an immediate "high."

Almost all of these children witnessed or committed violence or fell victim to it. Many actually raped or killed, said Mr. Shanor.

Most programmes for children in Somalia are for those who have settled into displacement camps like Mohammad.

Those who live outside them receive no schooling or counselling, said Jamie McKindrick of the British charity Save the Children.

Displacement camps are grandly named but are little more than a group of thatched huts with sheets of green plastic for waterproofing. Meals are provided by aid agencies, many of which

have also organised basic schooling.

Supervision is minimal. Those who attend school are also those who might be seen running and fighting in the main Bakara market or other crowded thoroughfares in Mogadishu.

"It's almost Dickensian and those who are living on the street are falling into a vacuum and they desperately need de-traumatisation programmes and educational counselling to pull them into mainstream society," said Mr. McKindrick.

The only known programme dealing with similarly disturbed children was developed by Dr. Neil Boothby for children in Mozambique traumatised by war.

Dr. Boothby's programme used local social systems and organisations to go out into various communities and villages.

"In Somalia this would mean matching indigenous

NGOs (non-governmental organisations), women's groups and village elders with cultural experts who can go into the community and work with the people," said Mr. Shanor.

"These teams would set up group therapy sessions giving those who need help the chance to tell and re-tell their experience because mostly we find that the cause of such trauma is usually linked to one specific event."

Tracing efforts that would bring families together are also important.

"Families are a natural support system and the only way to treat this kind of disorder is by showing the child a normal life. No one is trying to hurt him," said Mr. Shanor.

For now the children of Somalia run and play in the rubble of their country, imitating their parents and peers with sticks that simulate Kalashnikov rifles.



Young Somali boys used to the rule of the night in the country for several years now find themselves

living through belated trauma of their experience (File photo)

Many react initially to violence around them by imitating it but longer-term reactions are sporadic anti-social

and violent behaviour, said Doctor Hussain Mursal of Save the Children.

"These children are the future of Somalia and we must take care not to let this generation fall through the cracks," he said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO  
18:00 ..... Quenia Durward  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Magazine Sportif  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... The Powers that Be  
21:10 ..... Documentary  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Jordan Weekly  
22:40 ..... Feature Film

### PRAYER TIMES

03:53 ..... Fajr  
05:26 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
12:33 ..... Dhuhr  
16:14 ..... Asr  
19:40 ..... Maghrib  
21:12 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish.  
Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 6340.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411.

Anglican Church Tel. 652626. Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71131.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Assyrian International Church Tel. 652526.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 825834, 654932.  
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675091.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and some clouds will appear at various altitudes and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northwesterly moderate in Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... Min./Max. temp. 18 / 27  
Aqaba ..... 26 / 32  
Dahab ..... 20 / 32  
Jordan Valley ..... 22 / 30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 34 Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Jounah Abu Thiyab ..... 748948  
Dr. Khalil Mohammad Khalil ..... 740740  
Dr. Mohammad Unwan ..... 612332  
Dr. Nidal Al Mahasni ..... 751672  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Fordwars pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salim pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644045  
Shmoussi pharmacy ..... 637660  
Nairookh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Mazen Sharari ..... (-)  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Haidan Hiyari ..... (-)  
Khalil pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661117  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 751212  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 608800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Ovenoca Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repair ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/22  
Khilidi Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642816  
Al-Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. .... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmoussi ..... 66411/14  
Shmoussi Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 843945  
Al-Musabir Hospital ..... 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66412/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 66416/6  
Italian, Al-Musabir ..... 77101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah ..... 77511/26  
Army, Marja ..... 89161/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/30  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... 09783323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09790060  
Bin Sina Hospital ..... 09788732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... 09799990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... 02727555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... 02727275  
Bin Al Nafies Hospital ..... 02747100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... 03314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
08:15 ..... Sarajevo (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Salalah, Muscat (RJ)

10:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)  
10:20 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Bangkok (RJ)  
11:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:30 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
23:40 ..... London (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:30 ..... Aden (AL)  
10:35 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Khartoum (SU)  
12:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)  
15:00 ..... Dubai, Karachi (TK)  
20:0



# Home News

## Cabinet profiles

AMMAN (J.T.) — Following are profiles of the Cabinet ministers that were unavailable at press time Saturday evening.



Bassam Al Saket

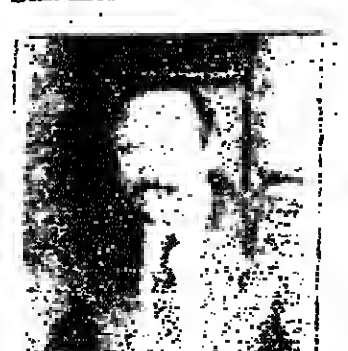
**Minister of Industry and Trade** Bassam Al Saket was born in Salt in 1944. He received a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Baghdad University in 1966. In 1976 he obtained a doctorate from Oxford University. He assumed senior government posts, including Director of Research at the Central Bank of Jordan, Director of the Royal Scientific Society's Economic Department and Economic Adviser to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Dr. Saket also served as Director General of the Pension Fund, Secretary General of the Royal Court and Minister of Agriculture. He was also appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Cement Factories Company, a post which he retained until his appointment Saturday. Dr. Saket authored several studies and published research papers on foreign aid to Jordan and science and technology in Jordan. He is an active member on the boards of various economics and educational institutions, including the CBI, the World Affairs Council, the Amman National University's Board of Trustees and the Washington-based International Development Association.

**Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan**



**Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment** Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan was born in Neimeh in the Irbid govern. rate in 1936. He obtained a bachelor's degree in economics at the American University of Beirut in 1965, worked at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBI) and obtained master's and doctorate degrees in economy from Birmingham University. Dr. Farhan served in several positions including Deputy Director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) in 1984. He later served as Director General of the Social Security Corporation, Director General of the Customs Department and Director General of the Jordanian Investments Corporation until his appointment as minister.

**Salameh Hammad**



**Minister of Interior** Salameh Hammad was born in Rneili, Jizeh district in 1944. He obtained a bachelor's degree in law from Baghdad, a diploma of public administration from Paris and a diploma of local administration from the Sorbonne University. Before his appointment as minister, Mr. Hammad worked as Minister of Interior Secretary General from 1989. Mr. Hammad headed a special committee in 1990 to look after the evacuees. He held senior posts at the Ministry of Interior, including sub-district governor, district governor of Aqaba, Director of the Nationality and Foreigners Department at the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Hammad supervised the 1989 parliamentary elections and served on the membership of several ministerial committees, such as the Awqaf council and the state property committees. Mr. Hammad was awarded Jordan's Independence and Kawkab Medals of the Second Order.



Radi Ibrahim

**Minister of Supply** Radi Ibrahim was born in Kilem, Irbid in 1942. He obtained his bachelor's degree in commerce from Cairo University in 1965. He served as Karak governor from 1992, until he was named Minister of Supply Saturday. Mr. Ibrahim also worked as Secretary General of the Supply Ministry from 1989 until 1992. He also held senior posts at the Ministries of Industry and Trade and Supply. Mr. Ibrahim was awarded Jordan's Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order.

**Tareq Suheimat**



**Minister of Communications** Tareq Suheimat was born in Karak in 1936. He holds a degree in medicine from London. In 1962 he joined the Armed Forces Medical Services. Dr. Suheimat established the Kidney Transplant Unit at Hussein Medical Centre, remained its director until 1987 when he left the Armed Forces as a Major General to a private clinic. Dr. Suheimat received Jordan's Independence and Kawkab Medals of the Second Order and the Medal of Military Merit of the First Order for his medical achievements.

**Khaled Al Omari**



**Minister of Education and Higher Education** Khaled Al Omari was born in Deir Youssef in Irbid in 1942. He obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the American University of Beirut in 1964, and a doctorate in educational management and supervision in 1977. He worked as a teacher of mathematics at the Ministry of Education schools, a school headmaster and school supervisor in Maan, Jarash and Amman from 1964 to 1974. In 1977 he was appointed principal of Huwara Community College for one year, then joined Yarmouk University as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education. Later Dr. Omari headed the Development and Planning Department. He also became director of Admission and Registration and then director of the Continuing Education and Community Development Department at the university. Later he headed the Students Affairs Department. Dr. Omari was a visiting scholar of Wisconsin University in 1986 and later at Kuwait University. He served as an educational advisor in several Arab countries.



Khaled Al Zoubi

**Minister of State for Legal Affairs** Khaled Al Zoubi was born in Ramtha in 1944. He obtained a bachelor's and master's degrees from Cairo University in 1968 and 1970. In 1984, he received a doctorate in law from Ein Shams University. Dr. Al Zoubi worked as Provincial Governor at the Interior Ministry in 1971 and as a district governor at the ministry until 1985. He joined the University of Jordan's teaching staff and became Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Law and later headed the General Law Department for about two years. He worked as part-time legal consultant at the Foreign Ministry from 1985 until 1991. Dr. Zoubi authored several books on law, including many laws and legislations in force at the Ministries of Interior and Municipal and Rural Affairs.

**Bassam Kakish**

**Minister of Water and Irrigation** Bassam Kakish was born in Salt in 1934. He joined the Jordanian Armed Forces in 1951, received masters degree in military sciences from Taiwan in 1952, served as Commander of the Royal Engineering Corp from 1973-1975 and later served at Army Headquarters as Assistant to the Army Chief of Staff for Planning, and as Inspector General of the Armed Forces. He retired in 1984 and worked as a Director General of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and then President of the Jordanian Ports Corporation in 1986, later he became President of the Aqaba Region Authority.

**Khalaf Hawari**

**Minister of Housing and Public Works** Khalaf Hawari was born in Karak in 1941. He graduated from Baghdad University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1965. He joined the Royal Engineering Corp. for some time and worked as a construction engineer at the Ministry of Public Works from 1966 to 1969. Mr. Hawari headed the Maintenance and Traffic Department at the Ministry of Public Works during the period 1973-1982. He also served as Director of Public Works Departments in Karak, Balqa and Amman from 1982 until 1984. He later was named Ministry of Public Work's Undersecretary, a post which he retained from 1985 until 1989.



MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES Walid Asfar

## Islamic sciences academy to assess upgrading of its publications programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Council of the Islamic Academy of Sciences (IAS), the academy's executive body, is scheduled to meet in Amman next month with the participation of delegates from Pakistan, Morocco, Indonesia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Egypt as well as Jordan, said a recent statement. The meeting, which will last for four days, said the IAS statement, is designed to assess the overall academy plan of action for 1993, including the planned convening of the seventh IAS conference, entitled, "Health, Nutrition and Development in the Islamic World," in Dakar, Senegal, in November 1993. The statement said the council will also assess ways and means of

upgrading the programme of the academy, particularly in the area of technical publications. This is aimed at enabling the scientists and technologists in the 50 or so Islamic states to have access to appropriate media through which their technical research papers can be published, the statement explained. The IAS describes itself as an independent, non-political, non-governmental and non-profit organisation of distinguished scientists and technologists dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of science and technology in the Islamic World. The government of Jordan hosts the IAS in Amman, where the headquarters of the academy started functioning in April 1987.

## Jordan observes No-Tobacco Day

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan along with the other nations of the world Monday May 31 observes No-Tobacco Day under the slogan "Health Services: Our Window to a Tobacco-Free World."

On the eve of the occasion, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas stressed the need for the public to realise the health hazards of smoking and abstain from the habit.

"We can not order people not to smoke, but we would rather demand that smokers not endan-

ger the health of non-smokers," said Dr. Malhas.

He said "our advice is: quit smoking in order to protect your health and the health of others." Zuhair Malhas, president of the National Jordanian Anti-smoking Society, said he was dismayed at the lack of enforcement of the 1977 law which bans smoking in public places.

Nearly 50 per cent of Jordanian doctors are smokers and by smoking they set bad example for others, Dr. Malhas added.

The society appeals to pharmacists, doctors, nurses and hospital staff to join in its campaign to stem

the tobacco habit in Jordan, said Dr. Malhas.

It is regrettable to see the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) failing to respond to the society's repeated calls to take action and positive measures in support of the society's endeavours, Dr. Malhas added.

Paying tribute to Royal Jordanian (RJ) for banning smoking on some of its flights, Dr. Malhas said the national airline was the first among the airlines of the region to introduce the measure.

Referring to the situation in the western countries, Dr. Malhas said that smoking is now banned

in most public places.

Although the rate of smokers among doctors in the West 25 years ago stood at 55 per cent, it now runs at seven per cent in the United States, Dr. Malhas said.

Noting that the society was joining the Ministry of Health to fight the smoking habit through seminars and public awareness campaigns, he expressed hope that the 1977 law prohibiting smoking in public places will be enforced to protect the health of non-smokers.

Dr. Malhas said that under the law fines ranging from JD 10 to JD 200 would be imposed on violators.



Zuhair Malhas

## A No-Tobacco Day message

By Hussein A. Gezairy

THE SMOKING problem has become one of the major public health problems throughout the world. This is recognised by many people, but greater numbers tend to ignore it.

Between the two camps a battle rages on, attitudes polarise and resources and capabilities are mobilised.

In almost every country of the world there is an association of some form or another dedicated to saving mankind from the long list of dangers to their health which smoking represents.

On the other side, the tobacco companies continue to mobilise all their resources, and spend billions of dollars annually to promote their harmful product, paying little heed to the health risks to which smokers and those in close proximity to them are exposed.

There can be no denial of the fact that smoking is a real tragedy to the individual and the community. A smoker actually buys with his/her money a product that is the direct cause of nine out of every 10 cases of lung cancer throughout the world, and no less than one third of all types of cancer.

It also causes about one quarter of all cases of cardiovascular diseases. In addition, it accounts for a high percentage of cases of bronchitis and emphysema.

The loss through smoking incurred by the community is incalculable. It is paid out of people's health and loss of life.

Since the worst effects of smoking are cumulative in nature, and take a long time before they surface, the smoking problem is not given its due importance.

One the other hand, it is not easy to top smoking, because the smoking habit turns into an addiction the breaking of which requires strong resolve and a resourceful will-power.

To put it in a nutshell, when we deal with the smoking problem, we are actually confronting a firmly rooted habit with incalculable health risks, that do not affect only the smoker, but also members of his family and colleagues at work.

What is more, very powerful and influential interests are actively engaged in promoting this habit through highly appealing advertisements, aggressive marketing and false statements. Such interests scoring significant successes.

Confirmed figures show that tobacco consumption in the Eastern Mediterranean region has more than doubled in recent years.

This indicates that promotion and marketing campaigns organised by tobacco companies are winning large numbers of new recruits every day.

The vast majority of these are teenagers and people still in the prime of life. Needless to say, the continuous spread of the smoking habit places a heavy budgetary burden on WHO member states in the form of a hefty health bill and loss of productivity.

Hence, those of us who are

engaged in health protection and promotion feel that it is our duty to utilise every opportunity to enhance people's awareness of the dangers of tobacco and its toxic contents.

We also need to seek the help of every one who has the interests of humanity at heart so that we work together in fighting the smoking habit.

Together we can consolidate a new social attitude which disapproves of smoking and recognises that smokers must be helped to free themselves from the shackles of their harmful addiction.

Doctors and others who work in the health sector have a special status in so far as smoking is concerned.

To start with, they are the product of their communities and subject to all influences that operate in those communities.

Since the vast majority of smokers begin to smoke at an early age, significant proportion of medical students would have been smoking for some time before taking up their studies.

Perhaps we should recall that smoking was for a long time considered a "mark of high social position. Hence, the smoking habit spread widely within the medical and health sector.

Nevertheless, doctors and health workers have been the first to be alerted to the smoking problem and to appreciate its dangers. They are the first to receive the results of research and other studies which provide clear indicators of the very serious

health risks associated with smoking.

Doctors treat the victims of smoking and see with their own eyes how tobacco undermines the smoker's health, exposing him to a long list of serious diseases. Hence, it is not surprising that anti-smoking efforts should receive a welcoming response among doctors and health workers which makes the smoking cessation or reduction highest among them.

At the same time, it must be said that human weakness continues to hamper the desired goal of making the health sector completely tobacco-free.

It is that weakness which is responsible for the fact that we still see doctors who smoke and nurses going to a remote corner to light up a cigarette. Shortly afterwards that same doctor or nurse may be found giving sound advice to patients and telling them to stop smoking immediately.

That is one of the clearest examples of the contradiction between what we know and how we behave. The advice given is based on accurate knowledge of scientific facts, but the behaviour is dictated by a strong habit and ruthless addiction.

Be that as it may, it does not relieve those of us who are working in the health sector of our duty to do all that we can in order to bring our behaviour in line with our knowledge.

We should avoid being among those addressed by the Koran verse which states: "believers,

why do you profess what you do not practice?" It is most odious in God's sight that you should say one thing and do another."

In order to remove this contradiction, doctors and those who work in the health field should dedicate themselves to the cause of combating smoking.

In addition, it is imperative that hospitals, health centres, private clinics, medical, nursing and dental schools, pharmacies and all centres which provide diagnostic, curative or physiotherapy services should always be tobacco-free.

Doctors and health workers should also bring habits in line with their leading role.

All sections of society look up to them as the example to be followed in everything that relates to health. Hence, it is only natural that doctors and health workers should be in the forefront of the fight against smoking.

Recognising the importance of the role that can be played by doctors and health workers, and their influence in moulding the social attitude to smoking, the World Health Organisation has chosen the health services to provide the theme for the World No-Tobacco Day this year.

We hope that this choice will start a new era of tobacco-free health services that take the lead towards our noble goal of a world in which tobacco goes out of existence.

The writer is regional director of WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

## KLM due back in Amman June 7

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM) flight to land in Jordan since January 1991 is expected to arrive at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) Monday June 7, in implementation of an agreement concluded with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) last February. A KLM official told the Jordan Times that the flight, which will originate in Amsterdam will continue to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and return to Amman before leaving for the Netherlands on Tuesday each week.

KLM suspended its direct operations with Jordan in January 1991 just before the outbreak of the Gulf war. But the Dutch carrier later concluded an agreement with Cyprus Airways to make three

weekly flights from Larnaca to transport KLM passengers to Cyprus, where they can make connections aboard KLM flights to Amsterdam and other destinations.

Under the agreement with the CAA, KLM planes landing in Amman and Dubai can pick up Europe-bound passengers and vice-versa.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni airline, Alyemda, will have its Air Bus 310 planes checked and maintained at the Royal Jordanian maintenance facility under an agreement signed in Aden last week.

The announcement was made by RJ President Mahmoud Jamal Balgez following his return from Aden where he concluded the deal with Abdullah Al Abdullah, director general of the Alyemda.

## Crimes drop

AMMAN (J.T.) — The crime rate dropped by 12 per cent in Jordan during the last week of May, compared with the previous week; and the decline was mainly attributable to a lower number of car thefts and robberies, according to the Public Security Department (PSD).

A PSD statistical report issued Sunday said that between May 22 and 28 a total of 192 crimes occurred in the country compared to 217 the previous week.

Four murders were reported: two were said to be related to moral issues and the other two were reported as results of family feuds.

Two incidents of festive firings result in the injury of two persons last week.

The report said 120 robberies and thefts occurred, including a case telephone cable theft in Maan Governorate.

## Rabin says coalition crisis near end

(Continued from page 1) schvitz camp in Poland. She has denied the reports.

Ms. Aloni also irritated religious Israelis by being photographed at an Arab restaurant at a table with a breadbasket during the Passover holiday when Jews forswear bread.

Mr. Rabin's Labour Party had drawn up a compromise of splitting the education ministry, putting Ms. Aloni in charge of culture with another Meretz leader running the schools.

The idea remained in limbo. "The entire Labour Party is protesting itself before a party that is not Zionist," Ms. Aloni asserted on the radio, noting an incident last week where Rabbi Yosef failed to stand up during the national anthem.

Behind-the-scenes, Meretz members were negotiating for

broader powers and larger budget for Ms. Aloni, including control of Israel's main state-owned television channel, media reports said.

An outside possibility would be Mr. Rabin resigning his post, political analysts said.



## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King receives 'Eid messages

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received congratulatory cables from Arab and foreign heads of states as well as senior Jordanian officials on the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha. They wished the King continued good health and happiness and wished the people of Jordan further progress and prosperity.

### Royal artillery to fire 'Eid guns

AMMAN (Petra) — On the occasion of 'Eid Al Adha the Royal Artillery Corps will fire Eid guns in different governorates, according to an announcement by the Jordanian Armed Forces Headquarters. It said the guns will be fired Monday and throughout the feast days.

### Pilgrims have 3 days bridge-crossing priority

AMMAN (Petra) — Pilgrims returning from the holy places in Mecca and heading for the Israeli-occupied Arab lands can make the trip on June 6, 7 and 8, the three days when they will given priority in crossing to the West Bank, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). It said that returning pilgrims should report to the Pilgrims City at Ghor Nimein in the Jordan Valley at least one night before leaving for the West Bank. Those who wish to stay behind to visit relatives in Jordan will have to follow the normal procedures of registering their names with the police offices to cross at a later date, the PSD said.

### Passport office will stay open

AMMAN (Petra) — The Passport and Civil Status Department will remain open during the 'Eid Al Adha holiday to issue temporary passports for those wishing to visit the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and for emergency cases. The department said a team of employees will handle the procedures between Monday and Thursday, but not all employees will be on duty.

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# Sweltering Kuwait braces for summer dust storms

By William Maclean  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Ask most people what makes summer in Kuwait uncomfortable and the answer won't be the 50 degree celsius noon heat.

Dust — very fine, abrasive dust — is what prompts people to install air purifiers, wrap shawls over mouth and nose or, if it becomes unbearable, leave the country for a break.

Sand and dust storms are part of desert life, but Gulf residents say Kuwait's are particularly intense.

There is no foolproof way of avoiding the clouds of fine particles apart from stopping work and holidaying abroad — a popular remedy since the advent of oil wealth in the 1960s.

Nothing is so grim as a sandstorm in Kuwait town during midsummer," British diplomat Harold Dickson wrote in 1936.

"The burning, fiery wind seems

to scorch the very eyeballs." Dusty spells occur sporadically year-round, once or twice a month covering parts of the country of 1.3 million in an eerie yellow or red cloud, blocking out the sun and reducing visibility to less than one kilometre.

But the storms are at their longest — up to a week — and most intense in summer, residents say. At these times visibility can fall to 50 metres. Kuwaiti dust is particularly fine and easily inhaled, so asthmatics and people with other respiratory conditions tend to stay indoors.

Even on "clear" days, a fine layer of dust settles over cars, buildings and onto washing or food left outside.

"We hide indoors," said a Kuwaiti businessman, when asked for his remedy. But staying indoors is not foolproof — dust is sucked into buildings and cars through air conditioning systems.

The only comforting reflection is that it is 10 times worse

outside," Dickson notes glumly. Environmentalist Ali Khureibat said most Kuwaitis were resigned to the phenomenon and few wore protective masks like dwellers of smog-bound cities elsewhere in the world and some foreign residents of Kuwait city.

"It's annoying and it does block your nose and chest, so we keep inside the house. If we are outdoors, men use the ghutra (male headscarf) to cover our noses," Mr. Khureibat said.

"But you get used to it, just like the people of northern Europe get used to snow and rain."

Some Kuwaitis expect less severe dust this summer because unusually lengthy spring rains have produced extensive desert vegetation that binds the sand and makes it wind resistant.

But others say the increased movement of military vehicles dating from the 1990/91 Gulf

crisis, including post-war military exercises Kuwait continues to conduct with its allies, has ploughed up crusty topsoil and made the dust more mobile.

About four spells of extensive dust storms lasting up to a week each occur normally during the dust "high season" in June and July, according to the Meteorological Department of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Sand, heavier than dust, is rarely lifted more than a few feet off the ground. The lighter dust is lifted thousands of feet into the sky.

"In the last dust storm we had three or four days ago it was very heavy on the respiratory system. I had a very hard night," said Fatima Abdali, a researcher at the Environmental Health Sciences Department of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

Ms. Abdali, who is preparing to start a study on the possible chronic effects of the 1991 oilfield

fires on residents' health, says more analysis of the dust needed to be done to ensure it contained no harmful levels of residue from the fires.

"No one wears any kind of masks. This is the problem here," she said.

"People feel the threat has to be immediate and fatal for them to wear such things, so it's very hard for them to be convinced that during dusty times you have to wear a mask, especially for people susceptible to respiratory disease."

The blazing wells torched by fleeing Iraqi occupation troops spewed potentially toxic materials such as lead, nickel, vanadium and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons into the atmosphere and onto the desert.

The material would dissipate over time "but nobody can tell how long that will take without further surveying," Ms. Abdali said.

G-7

## Change could help them set a global agenda

By Richard Burt

WASHINGTON — It is time to transform the Group of Seven (G-7), a loose and often ineffective cluster of rich countries, into a real international steering committee that can deal with the economic and security challenges of the post-cold war world.

The need for collective action is mounting. With the Balkans in turmoil, Russia unraveling and weapons of mass destruction proliferating to rogue states like North Korea, the United States and its G-7 partners can watch the world drift into chaos or can assert leadership.

At another turning point, after World War II, Washington provided such leadership. Today America cannot, and should not, play this role on its own. The United Nations is more active but is still hampered by political disagreements, budgetary constraints and an unresponsive bureaucracy.

Hopes that the European Community might exercise greater influence have not panned out. Europe's failure in the Yugoslav crisis is a case in point.

The answer is not to invent new international machinery but to give the Group of Seven a bigger mandate. Unlike the U.N. Security Council, the group includes Germany and Japan. The other members are Britain, France, Ita-

ly and Canada — all economically strong, politically democratic and linked to Washington.

The governments, of course, already work together in several areas. But, except for regular sessions of finance ministers and central bankers, cooperation has tended to be limited or ineffective.

For example, the G-7 has not followed up on a 1992 agreement to develop a programme for coping with the potential disasters posed by aging nuclear power plants in the former Soviet Union. It remains to be seen whether and how the new agreement on a rescue package for Russia will be carried out.

The most organised and visible activity, the annual meetings of the seven heads of government, has evolved into an elaborate photo-op, "offering platitudes," as Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, observed.

America's key partners are likely to resist added responsibilities. The alternative, however, is not the free ride provided by Washington but a breakdown of international order.

Their self-interest is likely to bring them around. The very fact that they are prepared to rely on the G-7 format to attack problems like the Russian crisis is a good sign. To fulfill its enormous potential the G-7 must change. It needs concrete goals.

In the political-security realm, it must continue to help the Rus-

sians while working to stabilise the other former Soviet republics. In the economic area, the main goal should be to achieve the concessions necessary for a new global trade agreement.

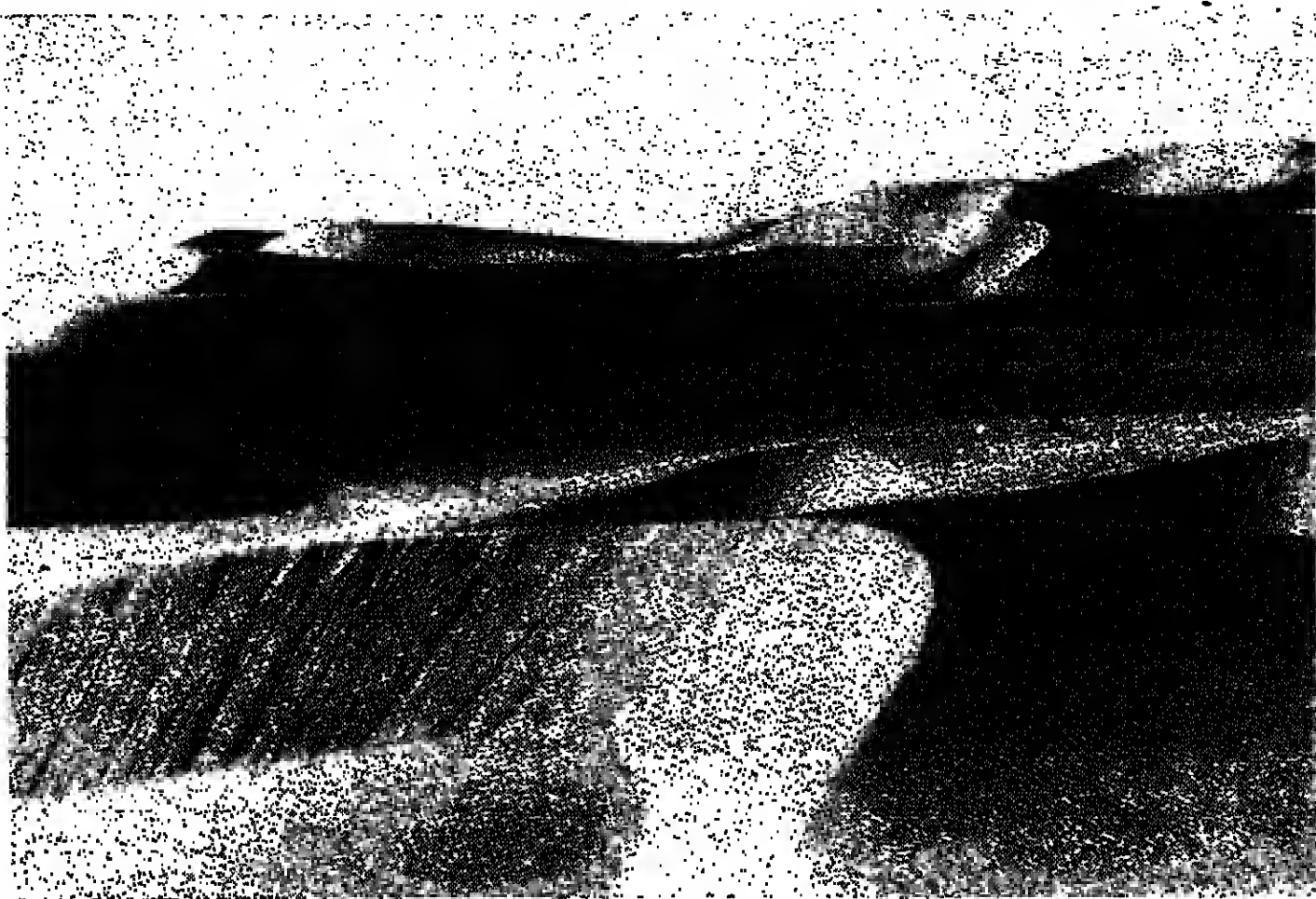
Over the long term, the agenda should include slowing the spread of nuclear arms technology, managing China's emergence as a world power and dealing with the rise of religious fundamentalism and the collapse of order in the Third World.

The G-7 should be institutionalised. It should meet three or four times a year. This would give the leaders more time for real problem solving and for strengthening the habits of cooperation.

Consultations among finance ministers should be complemented by regular meetings of foreign and defence ministers, trade negotiators and environmental heads.

A small, permanent secretariat should be established, mainly to ensure better preparation for the group's deliberations and better execution of decisions.

Transforming the G-7 along these lines will not reduce the need for other international organisations, like a better-managed United Nations, for crisis management. Nor will it rule out the need for Washington to take unilateral steps from time to time. In the end, however, an upgraded G-7 can set a global agenda and realise it — The New York Times.



Wind-blown sand dunes like these are the source of very fine, abrasive dust that pervades the whole environment during snowstorms (File photo)

## Amsterdam school buildings sinking into canals

By Caroline Smith  
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Amsterdam's famous canal-side houses, which tilt and lean alarmingly over the water, may look on the verge of collapse but they are among the safest buildings in a sinking city.

The ornately-gabled canal houses, many of which date back to the 16th century, were built on soft natural ground.

But the centuries-long Dutch battle against the sea is now taking its toll on tens of thousands of other buildings, erected in a frenzy of construction between the two world wars.

These newer houses, ringing Amsterdam's circular city centre, were built on reclaimed land and supported by wooden pilings.

A new report says they are in danger of subsiding and urgent action is needed to shore them up if Amsterdam is to avoid the same fate as Venice which is sinking below the water line.

"All the buildings built after 1900 and founded on wooden pilings are at risk," said Ton Hooijmaaijers, Amsterdam city council member and author of the report "Prevent or Cure."

Because the ground is not strong enough to support them, 20,000 to 40,000 buildings will have to be demolished if their foundations are not repaired, the report says.

Amsterdam was founded in the early 13th century when the first dams were built to protect it from floods. But the area was regularly flooded over hundreds of years, leaving a soft peat layer which prevented usual building methods.

From the 15th century buildings were supported on wooden pilings dug deep into the ground. The royal palace, built on the main dam in the 17th century as the city hall, rests on 13,659 wooden poles.

Concrete replaced wood after World War II and pilings are now sunk as deep as 60 metres into the ground.

By the mid-17th century the concrete ring of canals around the city centre was complete. The tall, narrow buildings have survived unscathed for 300 years.

But after the inner area of natural ground was fully inhabited land had to be reclaimed further out.

Dutch architect Hendrik Berlage drew up one of Amsterdam's extension plans, approved by the city council in 1917. He is renowned for the stock exchange building which he designed in 1896, the precursor of the so-called Amsterdam school of architecture.

Many of the inter-war suburbs now in danger were built in the style of the Amsterdam school, one of them laid out in the shape of a butterfly.

Ab Vol, director of buildings and housing at Amsterdam council, said: "We are all very fond of the architecture. We like the Berlage plan very much. So we want to preserve these areas."

Controversy reigns among council members over how urgently action is needed. Mr. Hooijmaaijers says the threat of sinking is extremely urgent. "It's going to happen," he said.

His solution involves removing the top sand layer by pumping water into the ground and replacing it with a special light, foaming

concrete which is as strong as normal concrete.

But this may not be enough to salvage the houses whose pilings are in poor condition.

Mr. Vol suggested more wooden pilings may have to be inserted underground to help support the buildings.

The subsidence has been recently exacerbated by a sinking water table which some say is leaving pilings exposed to the air as the top sand layer dries out. When this happens the wood rots and crumbles.

Other experts say a sinking ground level becomes a problem only when the subsidence is uneven, causing buildings to tilt to one side.

Despite conflicts of opinion over the cause and severity of the damage, there is no doubt a solution has to be found.

"If we don't do anything in the next 20 years very big damage is possible," said a council spokesman.

"It is not only a problem that Amsterdam has got but everywhere in the world where you have reclaimed land with houses on it," he added.

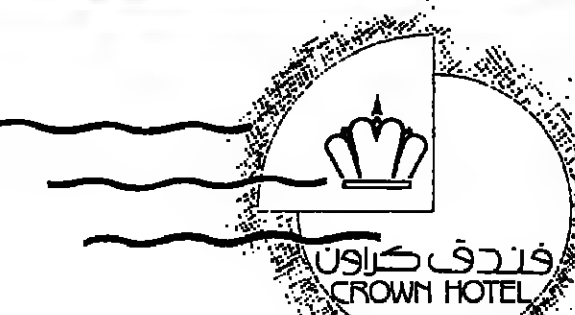
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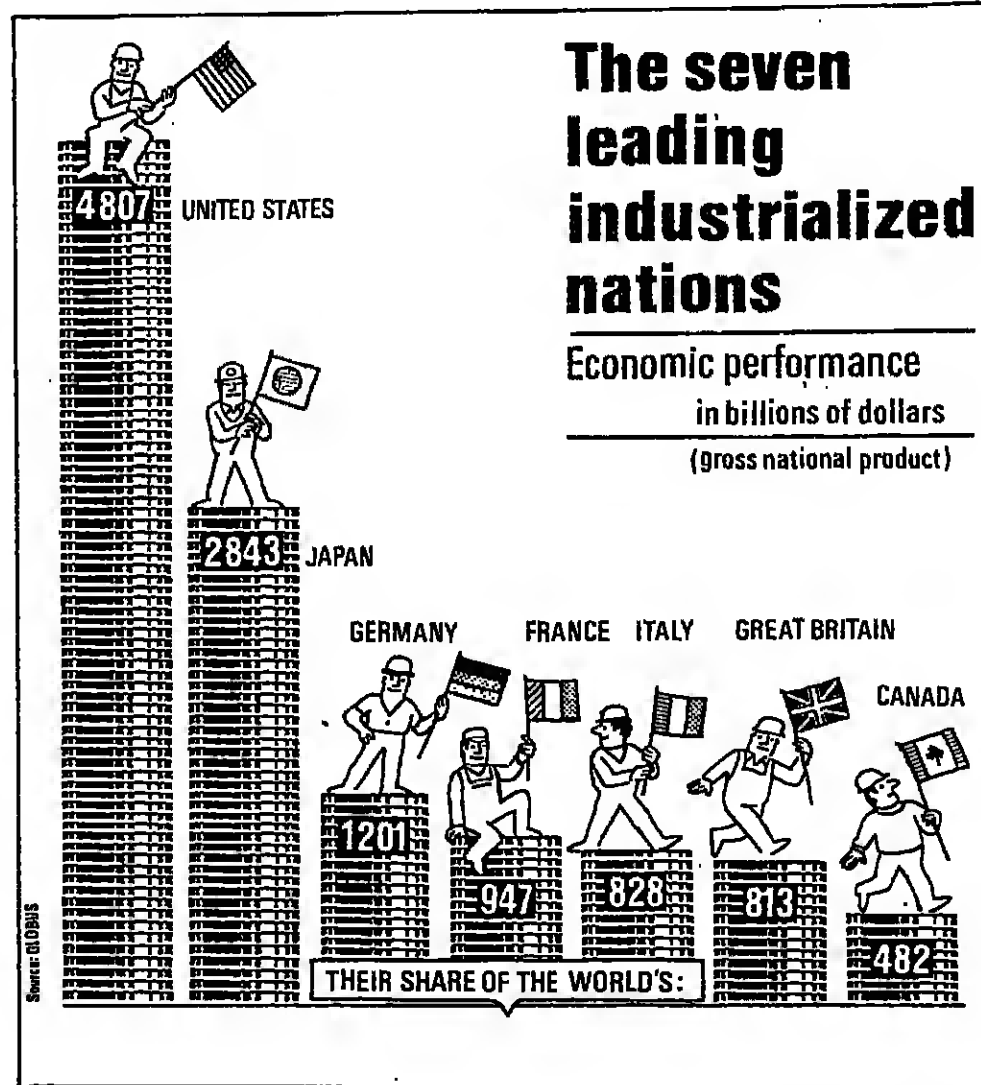
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# Analysts expect gold prices to retrace before resuming gradual upward path

LONDON (R) — Gold prices, which soared in recent weeks, are likely to retrace their steps for the next few days, and when they turn again, the upward path may be less steep than before.

"Most of the big buying has been done (in the present run). Now the market is in the hands of smaller investors," one trader based in continental Europe has said.

Analysts are sure the upswing will resume and that the market is in the same bullish mood as before, but opinion differs on how far prices could fall.

Gold was fixed at \$374.35 per ounce Tuesday morning, against

a peak of \$384.50 the previous week — the highest since the 1991 Gulf war — and 17 per cent above seven-year lows hit in early March.

Dealers see \$372 as they number the market will rebound from. But technical analysts who look to charts of historical prices to predict market moves are less optimistic.

"We're getting profit-taking signals and have probably seen the best of the strength for the time being, but it will come back," said David Sneddon, an analyst with Investment Research of Cambridge.

According to his charts, the key June futures contract on the

New York Commodity Exchange (XOMEX) could slide to \$363 before reversing the current correction.

That could happen by the end of next week, Mr. Sneddon added.

"We have seen some physical discharging from the Middle East this week," one dealer said. "But the Middle East usually goes counter to the trend."

The gold rally has been driven almost entirely by activity in the paper futures and options markets.

The markets are highly leveraged — only a small investment is required in order to control a very big position with a huge

potential for profit or loss. Prices began to rise on fears a world economic revival would rekindle inflation while the charts supported bullish sentiment.

Then news emerged that Hungarian-born investor George Soros had bought 10 per cent of U.S. producer Newmont Mining from Anglo-French financier James Goldsmith and British financier Lord Rothschild. The latter bought call options — or rights to buy gold — with the money.

UBS's Smith was cautious about gold's ability to race back to its bull trend, citing the narrow premium of the much smaller and

less liquid platinum market over gold.

Only a few weeks ago platinum was trading at \$30 per ounce above gold, now it is less than a third of that.

"Gold's froth has not stuck on platinum," Mr. Smith said. The spread between them usually widens when gold is rising, the logic being that the platinum market is much thinner and it takes less activity to move it, he added.

But according to the chart analysts, gold bulls have plenty to look forward to. "I see gold reestablishing \$380 which is critical, then on to the psychological 400 level," Mr. Sneddon said.

# Japan tax revenues plummet due to business slump

TOKYO (R) — Japan's worst economic slump in two decades has taken a toll on government finances, with tax revenue falling three trillion yen (\$27 billion) short of estimated income, Kyodo News Agency has said.

Government sources told Kyodo that tax revenues for fiscal

1992, ending on March 31, 1993, amounted to less than 55 trillion yen (\$500 billion) or three trillion yen short of the government's revised forecast late last year.

The government had originally predicted it would reap 62.5 trillion yen (\$568 billion) in revenue but revised its outlook once it

realised that the economic recession had caused both private and corporate incomes to fall, Kyodo said.

Officials plan to use special funds, set aside for balancing the budget, to offset the shortage. It will be the first time in 11 years

## Lloyd's offers help to 'names'

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London has offered to help its members overcome short-term financial problems and moved to defuse a legal timebomb dogging the 305-year-old insurance market.

Chairman David Rowlands said in a statement, "this will not be an easy task. The issues are complex and the amounts in dispute are very substantial."

He told some 3,000 so-called "names" at a presentation of Lloyd's first-ever business plan in London's Royal Albert Hall they would be able to use some of the premiums collected this year to help overcome short-term solvency problems following recent record losses.

The world's largest insurance market, which reports results three years in arrears, last month forecast that its 1990 loss due in June, partly due to a series of natural disasters, would be between £2.5 billion (\$3.84 billion) and £2.8 billion (\$4.30 billion), after a £2.06 billion (\$3.16 billion) deficit for 1989.

The business plan, which offers a blueprint for survival and lays the groundwork for future growth at Lloyd's, is designed to save Lloyd's from being swamped by losses of more than £6 billion (\$9.22 billion) in the years 1988 to 1991.

Mr. Rowland said in a statement Lloyd's was also setting up two panels to help find solutions to the legal disputes hanging over the market.

Many names — private individuals who underwrite Lloyd's risks — have joined action groups to pursue allegations of negligence against some of their agents in the market.

One panel will look at the legal side of the various claims brought or pending by names' action groups. The other panel will examine how much money is available to compensate names for losses they have incurred and recommend the structure of a possible settlement offer.

Lloyd's chief executive Peter Middleton urged names at the meeting to support the Council of Lloyd's in its search for a solution to the market's current problems.

Mr. Middleton said the business plan would bring the principles of good management to Lloyd's and should result in a 1995 underwriting profit of £900 million (\$1.38 billion).

One name said the plan was already too late for some.

## Shanghai Metals Exchange becomes world's 3rd largest

PEKING (AP) — One year after its opening, the Shanghai Metals Exchange has become the world's third largest, but the president of the exchange says problems in integrating with world markets persist, an official newspaper has reported.

The Shanghai Metals Exchange traded 8.3 million tonnes of non-ferrous metals and saw a turnover of 152 billion yuan (\$26.6 billion) during the past year, behind only the metals markets in London and New York, the China Daily said.

The exchange has 55 domestic members and serves more than 1,000 customers across China, according to the newspaper. Companies from several other countries, including the United States, Japan and Britain, have applied for membership.

However, Yu Guocong, president of the exchange, said that most of the current members do not have foreign trade rights, a factor inhibiting the exchange from conforming to world standards.

"The most urgent task for us is to improve our exchange with international-standard practice," Mr. Yu said.

The Shanghai exchange, selling copper, lead, aluminum, zinc, tin, nickel and iron, was designated China's first futures market. However, most of the trading has been in spot contracts rather than true futures contracts.

## World Bank has \$1b ready for new S. Africa

LONDON (R) — The World Bank has said it was ready to allocate a billion dollars in loans to South Africa once power is handed over to a representative government.

"The prospects are excellent," the bank's regional vice-president for Africa, Edward Jaycox, told a news briefing in London.

Such loans would be the bank's first to South Africa since the racial discrimination of apartheid became entrenched there more than three decades ago.

Mr. Jaycox said a government acceptable to the black majority must be in place before the bank could make the loans, for projects including housing, health and telecommunications.

"We can't lend to South Africa unless there's a representative government," he said. But he added, "in my view that doesn't have to be an elected government. I expect this to happen as soon as we get a transitional government."

Mr. Jaycox said the bank could not subsidise the white minority in redressing imbalances and there was no way the loans could

be concessional. The World Bank estimates the wealth of South Africa, the world's biggest gold exporter, averages around \$2,500 per person per year compared with \$80 in neighbouring Mozambique.

Mr. Jaycox said the bank had started preparing the projects with the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress. "When they tell us, we're ready to go," he said of the major black nationalist groups.

He said development projects had to tackle the needs of black South Africans who were forcibly resettled under apartheid in remote tribal "homelands" or made to live in townships some distance from the economic centres of "white" towns and cities.

"These are political areas," he said. "We've got to get people living closer to where work is...and reform is involved as well."

But with many black youths impatient for radical redistribution of wealth, Mr. Jaycox added, "if the African majority think they're all going to have ranch-style houses and two-car garages, then we're in trouble."

## U.S. bank insurance fund returns to the black

WASHINGTON (AP) — The fund insuring deposits in America's 11,735 banks is back in the black for the first time in nearly two years, regulators have said.

At the end of March, the balance of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.'s (FDIC) bank insurance fund was \$1.2 billion, up from negative \$101 million at the end of 1992 and negative \$7 billion a year before that. The fund last reported a positive balance on June 30, 1991, when it was \$4.5 billion.

Only seven banks failed during the first three months of this year, compared with 35 during the first three months of last year and 122 for all of last year.

The agency's list of problem commercial and savings banks fell to 743 at the end of March, the lowest in more than 10 years, from 863 at the end of 1992 and 1,090 at the end of 1991.

However, the total assets held by problem banks, although declining, is still higher than at any time before 1991. The total is \$427.6 billion at the end of March, down from \$464.4 billion three months before and \$609.8 billion 15 months earlier.

The FDIC officially is projecting that banks with \$25 billion in assets will fail this year, but Roger Watson, the agency's research director, said that estimate probably is too high.

Despite the good news, the FDIC board voted unanimously not to change the premiums paid by banks during the second half of this year. They range from 23 cents per \$100 of deposits for healthy banks to 31 cents for banks in poor shape. As recently by 1989, the premium was just 8.3 cents.

The FDIC staff, which recommended keeping the premiums unchanged, said they did not represent an undue burden on the industry, but board member Jonathan Fiechter, acting director of the Office of Thrift Supervision, disputed that.

## Senior official says Cuba ready to make economic changes

HAVANA (Agencies) — A senior Cuban official said Cuba was ready to make economic changes but political changes would not solve its economic problems, which included a U.S. trade embargo.

"We're ready to make economic changes," Carlos Lage, executive secretary of the council of ministers, said in an interview published by the Mexican newspaper El Sol.

A version of the interview was carried in Havana by the Cuban news agency, Prensa Latina.

"We accept private capital investment, we're ready to participate in international free trade, we're willing to integrate economically with Latin America," Mr. Lage said.

Foreign diplomats said that while the communist-ruled Caribbean state had opened up its economy to foreign private investment and eased a state monopoly on foreign trade, it had so far stopped short of privatising sectors of the economy.

Mr. Lage strongly condemned a longstanding U.S. trade and financial embargo against Cuba, which he said had cost the island more than \$40 billion over the last three decades.

"What our country is suffering

is not an embargo, it's a brutal blockade... the actions which the United States takes against Cuba around the whole world," he added.

Mr. Lage, who is also a member of the Council of State and the Politburo of the ruling Communist Party, said Cuba's problems were not political but economic.

"To apply political changes to our economic problems is like treating a stomach ache with an aspirin, with the added danger of provoking gastritis," he said.

Mr. Lage is considered Cuba's chief economic strategist and a driving force behind a campaign by the communist government to attract foreign capital and technology investment to the island.

This strategy is part of Cuba's response to its current economic crisis triggered by the collapse of its past trade and aid ties with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Cuba and Russia have recently signed an agreement to develop economic ties, although the head of a Russian delegation insisted that financial aid from Moscow to Havana would be "impossible."

Prensa Latina reported that the document was signed in Havana following several days of talks.

## Angola launches foreign currency sales

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government has taken further measures to liberalise the economy, allowing commercial banks to sell foreign currency to licensed businesses wanting to import goods.

The state news agency Angop reported Saturday that foreign currency, to be used for imports, would be sold by the banks at 80 per cent the rate on the parallel market. All commercial banks will receive \$2 million fortnightly and each business could receive a maximum \$200,000. The new measure, part of efforts by the formerly Marxist government to liberalise the state-controlled economy, was announced Wednesday by Banco Nacional de Angola (central bank) Governor Generoso de Almeida. Angop said the move was aimed at combating inflation on the informal market. After the measure was announced, the exchange rate on the black market fell to 15,000 kwanza to the dollar from around 20,000 kwanza. The sale of foreign currency until now has been tightly regulated by the central bank.

**THE BETTER HALF** By Giasbergen

"If income taxes get too high, I'll just beg my boss for a pay cut."

**Peanuts**

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GRAMPA SAYS HE ALWAYS WALKED TO SCHOOL...

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IN DEEP SNOW!

UPHILL!

**Andy Capp**

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HMMMM!

WELL, IF THEY CAN SELL IT FOR THAT PRICE, SO CAN I!

THAT WILL BE \$53, PLUS 15¢ TOTAL OF \$54!

\$54? WHAT'S THE EXTRA 5¢ FOR?

WELL, IF YOU HAD MAILED AWAY FOR IT, YOU WOULD HAVE TO PAY THE POSTAGE ON IT, WOULDNTCHA?

HUMPH! YES, I GUESS, YOU'RE RIGHT!

NOW YOU COME BACK FOR THE HAT IN THREE DAYS AND YOU MAY HAVE IT!

**HOROSCOPE**

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 31, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Clean up whatever is cluttering your life while adding some art, colour or culture to your environment. Conditions at home lend themselves to improvements quickly and easily and without great cost.

**ARIES:** March 21 to April 19) Your own ideas for some new beginnings and interests are excellent and you would be wise to act on them at once as later in the day a bigwig can block your progress.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) This is your day to be still and let those progressive ideas mature in your consciousness, then you can make forays into a better set of circumstances.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have a dynamic friend who has just the right plan of action for you to get out from under problems and into a more successful frame of mind.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You now find it possible to bring to the attention of a highly placed person your own special abilities and get the persons backing.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Your day to really make that idea you have been considering for it can be beneficial to you and later don't get involved in frays with fellow associates.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You find that a better attitude towards your attachment can save off a pending adverse condition and stick by mate instead of going off on a pleasure jaunt.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Follow the recommendations of a brilliant associate given early in the day and success becomes more quickly yours, then don't let a family problem upset you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Plunge into activities facing you with enthusiasm and you get more done that you have thought possible, tonight use much care on the highways, in motion.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can have a good time in your spare moments today as well as many arrangements for the future recreations, then tonight be careful of expenditures.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can do to tone up your home with some new interests that please your own family and tonight avoid pushing your interests strongly.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can be far more productive today than for some time past so get busy and put your plans in motion, tonight steer clear of a private amity.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You see anew what you can do to increase the amount of goodies you have in your life so go after them quickly, then avoid a demanding friend.

**HOROSCOPE**

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Clarify in your contact with others just what they expect of you and schedule your time wisely. If you allow pleasure to interfere with business you could become frustrated and spend more than was your original intention.

**ARIES:** March 21 to April 19) You find you need to be cautious in accepting and going along with a proposal of an outside associate, tonight consider your financial position.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You think by some quick action you can get rid of a standing problem but it will take more time than you think or it will later boomerang on you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Don't let a friend talk you into some swift new arrangement that you have not carefully analysed, studied, tonight cheer up your mate who is feeling very down.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) This is the day for you to do whatever you have agreed in public or vocational interest without suggesting changes, tonight don't spend on fun.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You need to make haste slowly in considering an expansive activity for another has the inside track, tonight don't rise to bait for a fight at home.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Don't try to get away with anything where a practical business matter is concerned but career requires you to as agreed, tonight don't be inquisitive.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Your associate are not ready for that plan that means so much to you, so put it aside for the moment, tonight steer clear of any financial commitments.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Plod along on the way you have found best suited to do whatever your activities are successfully and tonight this k how you can improve personally.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Consider well how to enjoy present entertainment and don't get involved in a modern scene, tonight a private worry can upset you if you allow it to do so.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Making any waves at your home could cause some friction to develop very quickly there so keep silent in reference to criticism, tonight don't invite a friend into your home.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think about what you can do to maintain a better relationship with usual companions instead of pressing new plans, tonight avoid an irate bigwig.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Keep your financial situation in its status quo and don't yield to opportunities of an expert but maintain steadfastness, tonight stick close to home.

**THE Daily Crossword** by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1. Airborne trip
3. Suit material
10. Bridge
14. Pueblo dweller
15. Pertaining to a
16. Narrative
17. Oil canal
18. Snuffs
19. Solemnity
20. Exude
21. Macaulay Culkin film
22. Lager
25. All
26. Volcanic rock
28. Type size
32. Swifty
33. Inter
34. Eggs
37. Macaulay Culkin film
41. Fuses
42. Auberjonois of TV
43. Damp
44. Eggs
46. Armed bands
47. On the briny
48. Angry
50. Macaulay Culkin film
54. Infatuate in a humiliating way
56. Pierre's state
59. Class
60. Yoked beams
61. Sherriff land
62. Aquatic mammal
63. "On Golden"
64. Coward
65. Theatrical presentations
66. TV's Shroyer

DOWN

2. Thunder god
4. Fencing weapon
4. Relative of a
5. Scattered bag
6. Blunder
7. Paper quantity
8. Sport
9. "Born Free"
10. Endevored
11. US person, Thomas
12. Change
13. First named
23. Allow
24. Gen. Robert
26. Theda of the silents
27. Footless
28. Maine river
29. Dress style
30. Scott
31. Swiss river
33. Rippling agent
34. Elevator name
35. Flower holder
36. B.A. word
38. Cupid
40. Despair
41. Small pear
42. Churn
43. Fireplace items
47. Video's partner
48. Spring
49. Country item
51. Frequent terms
52. "Little Women" name
53. Political word
55. Core of a neve
56. Stock
57. Philosopher
58. Japanese money

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ALPHA TEAM: ALPHABET, BETA, GAMMA, DELTA, Epsilon, ZETA, Eta, Theta, Iota, Kappa, Lambda, Mu, Nu, Xi, Omicron, Pi, Rho, Sigma, Tau, Upsilon, Phi, Chi, Psi, Omega



## Japan's battered brokers predict solid return to the black this year

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's big four securities firms have forecast a solid return to profitability in the current year following one of the most dismal performances in the history of the country's stock-broking industry.

But analysts said profitability in the current year would depend on turnover of the Tokyo Stock Exchange which plunged to a daily average of less than 250 billion yen in the latest year, down from 354 billion yen a year earlier.

The projections followed announcements of better-than-expected results by industry leader Nomura Securities Co. Ltd. and third-ranked Nikko Securities Co. Ltd. Nomura's pre-tax earnings plunged 95 per cent to 2.4 billion yen (\$21 million) while Nikko's profit dropped 19.4 per cent to 2.5 billion yen.

But Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd. and Yamachi Securities Co. Ltd. suffered bigger-than-expected losses. Second-ranked Daiwa incurred a pre-tax loss of 7.3 billion yen, reversing a profit of 9.3 billion yen. Yamachi, ranked fourth, saw its losses widen two per cent to 37.4 billion yen.

Hit by sharp declines in commission revenue arising from reduced stockmarket turnover, Nomura, Daiwa and Yamachi had all projected losses for the year in their most recent estimates with only Nikko expecting to break even.

Ten of Japan's second-tier securities firms also announced losses led by Kankai Securities Co. Ltd. with a pre-tax loss of 51 billion yen.

Yamatane Securities Co. Ltd., which suffered a loss of 10.4 billion yen, meanwhile announced the resignations of 14 top executives including chair-

man Sadao Hashimoto and president Shotaro Seki following a series of scandals. A new president has named Sakura Bank Ltd., the company's main banker.

For the current year, Nomura forecast pre-tax earnings of 70 billion yen while Daiwa and Nikko both projected profits of 60 billion yen. Following two years of steep losses, Yamachi projected earnings of 40 billion yen.

The Big Four are also projecting increased revenue in the current year following declines of around 20 per cent in the year to March, mainly as a result of reduced commission revenue triggered by decreased trading volume.

The four leading brokers, which rely on commission revenue for almost two thirds of their turnover, have recently been encouraged by a strong rebound in trading volume to an average of 630 billion yen a day in April.

Kazumasa Niimi, senior economist at the Japan Research Institute, said even smaller securities companies would return to the black if average daily volume exceeded 500 billion yen a day to the current year.

But if it falls below 400 billion yen a day, he said losses were likely at two of the Big Four as well as the smaller companies.

Mr. Niimi said relatively strong earnings from bond trading last year were unlikely to be repeated. "No broker will be able to make a big hit here this year," he said, referring to fading hopes for further interest rate cuts after the rebound in share prices amid expectations that the economy has bottomed.

## OECD sees rough sailing ahead for Iceland

PARIS (AFP) — Iceland, smallest among the 24 economies grouped in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), faces another year of recession this year and a "distinctly unfavourable" outlook for 1994, too, the OECD has said.

Output could fall off by a further 1.8 per cent in 1993 after a 3.3 per cent drop in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1992, it said in its annual survey of the Icelandic economy.

The survey foresaw a turnaround to modestly positive growth of about 1.0 per cent next year, with Iceland "possibly benefiting from a recovery in export markets and...early gains from European integration," due to receive a boost from the European Economic Area (EEA) accord.

It attributed the country's poor short-term outlook mainly to a deterioration of cod stocks entailing severe cutbacks in catch quotas.

Other major causes included waning demand and sliding prices for aluminium and ferro-silicon, the other top two export products, and the impact of tight macro-economic policies required to cut public deficits and control inflation.

The OECD said authorities must now seek to "consolidate the success they have had in ridding the economy of its inflationary and public-sector excesses," noting that inflation was at a 20-year low by the end of 1992. Inflation might temporarily rise to some three per cent this year because of higher import prices in the wake of a six per cent devaluation last November of Ice-

land's krona against a "basket" consisting of the European ECU, the dollar and the yen. But prices should be broadly stable next year, the OECD said.

It said a commitment to a stable exchange rate was essential to maintaining price and wage stability and a steady reduction of current high real interest rates. "Any further currency devaluation might well serve to slow the inevitable process of rationalisation confronting the fisheries, thereby perpetuating the volatility of the economy which is caused by its lack of diversification," OECD economists said.

Fish and fish products have recently accounted for up to 80 per cent of the export earnings of the rugged and misty North Atlantic island republic, which has a population of 260,000 for an area nearly one-fifth that of France, with three-quarters covered by glaciers and barren volcanic rock.

The crisis in the fisheries sector was due to many years of over-fishing of cod and recent unfavourable environmental conditions, and would probably require further cuts in cod catch in a bid to ensure stock rebuilding.

The crisis has doubled Iceland's normally low jobless rate to nearly five per cent last year, the OECD noted, adding that the rate might rise further to a more than 50-year peak of just over six per cent in 1994.

This could affect households' willingness to spend, while high interest rates and excess capacity might hold back any marked rebound in private consumption and investment for another year or so, the OECD said.

## Publi-Graphics represents Young & Rubicam in the Middle East

Young & Rubicam Inc. will be represented by the Middle East advertising agency, Publi-Graphics, in that region of the world under an agreement announced jointly today. The announcement was made by Ingo Krauss, chairman and chief executive officer, Y & R Europe and Mustapha Assad, president and chief executive officer of Publi-Graphics. The agreement is effective May 1st, 1993. "Publi-Graphics repeatedly has demonstrated why is the leading professional agency in the region," commented Mr. Krauss. "We have witnessed the agency's outstanding talent and creativity for many years, having worked together on a variety of assignments. This new relationship will be a major asset in meeting all our clients' communications needs." Mr. Assad said: "We are deeply appreciative of the confidence placed in us by Young & Rubicam, and it is indeed a privilege for Publi-Graphics to represent such a leading worldwide agency." Publi-Graphics, founded in 1973, is the leading communications group in the Middle East. It will provide Young & Rubicam a Middle East agency network that includes offices in Amman, Bahrain, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Riyadh and Tehran.

## UAE seeks to boost non-oil industry

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE), keen to cut its reliance on imports and diversify its oil-dominated economy, is increasing lending to private investors and trying to match them to promising ideas.

But Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) General Manager Mohammad Abdul Baki said Emirates investors would take time to develop the management and marketing skills needed to plan and execute large-scale industrial projects.

Mr. Abdul Baki said lending from January to May had almost reached total 1992 lending as the bank puts new emphasis on matching investors with embryonic projects ripe for funds.

"Diversifying the UAE economy is clearly an enormous undertaking," he added in a written response to questions from Reuters.

Mr. Abdul Baki said EIB, the UAE's main source for industrial financing, had approved 80.2 million dirhams (\$22 million) for projects in the Gulf Arab state this year.

Total funding for new industrial projects rose to 107.8 million dirhams (\$29 million) in 1992 from 100.6 million dirhams (\$27 million) in 1991.

But the local economy still has some problems to overcome. "These projects are still on the small scale and reflect the limitations imposed by the size of the UAE market," Mr. Abdul Baki

said. "It will take time for private investors in this country to develop the management capability and especially marketing skills to plan and execute large-scale industrial projects."

Mr. Abdul Baki said the bank had extended its role to match investors with industrial projects.

"In addition to our funding activities... the EIB exercises a significant influence in a non-funding capacity," he said.

EIB is 51 per cent owned by the UAE government. The rest is held by eight national banks and five insurance companies.

It is the UAE's facilitator of an Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) programme which extends credits for trade deals which promote UAE exports to other Arab

countries.

Mr. Abdul Baki said the bank bases its lending on import substitution projects which use local resources. In the past two years it funded 41 projects in food, metals, minerals, chemicals, plastics, paper, and manufacturing, he said.

"It will become increasingly important... that industrial projects are able to market their output outside of the UAE as well," he pointed out.

Like other Gulf Arab states, the UAE is largely reliant on food and manufacturing imports from the West and Japan. Imports in Abu Dhabi, the largest oil producer of the seven emirates, topped \$1 billion in the first quarter of 1993.

## China reports huge price increases

BEIJING (AP) — Big increases in the prices of fuel, construction materials and industrial raw materials signal that even higher inflation awaits Chinese consumers later this year.

The State Statistics Bureau said that the retail price index in major cities in April was 17 per cent higher than in April 1992, the biggest month-on-month gain in five years.

But production costs were up even more sharply, the China Daily quoted the bureau as saying. Fuel was up 78 per cent from April 1992, construction materials were up 40 per cent and the prices of various services were up 41 per cent, the paper said.

Incomes also rose higher than planned, it said without giving any figures. But the fact that incomes for many urban residents have kept pace with inflation has so far prevented the widespread social discontent that accompanied the last period of high inflation in 1988.

Industrial output maintained the same strong pace set in the first three months of the year. Output by state-owned factories in April was up 25 per cent from April 1992, while output by smaller, more efficient township-run factories was up 71.5 per cent, the Economic Information Daily (Jingji Cankao Bao) said.

Reports on the inflation figures in China's official media reflected a new willingness to acknowledge the problem after months of insisting that the economy was

under control. The China Daily warned against "ruinous investment in fixed assets" and quoted economists as saying that it was crucial for the government to tighten regulation over development.

From January through April, fixed-asset investment by state-owned companies totalled 97.2 billion yuan (\$17 billion), up nearly 70 per cent from the same period of last year, the paper said.

The burst of investment, a major factor in the rising inflation, reflects how closely many companies follow political rather than economic trends in making expansion plans. They are responding to senior leader Deng Xiaoping's call last spring for bold

reform and development. Experience tells them the government will eventually shift gears, tighten credit and discourage growth, and they want to grab the opportunity while it lasts.

Recently the central bank raised interest rates on savings accounts and loans in hopes of encouraging savings and discouraging leading. But the China Daily quoted Wang Dayong of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, as saying the rate increases were less than expected and would have only limited impact.

The government increased the cost of loans by less than one percentage point, fearful of increasing the burden on state-run enterprises.

## S. Arabia sees boom in gasoline additive plants

MANAMA (R) — It is boom time in Saudi Arabia for building plants which produce an additive that makes gasoline burn cleaner.

Worldwide demand for the additive, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), has been projected to triple during this decade and it is plain that the Saudi public and private sector want a major share of the global market.

The latest company to throw its hat into the ring is the Jeddah-based Alujain Corp., which awarded the international engineering firm ABB Lummus Crest Inc. a contract to prepare a feasibility study and implementation plan for an MTBE plant.

Alujain said it is planning to build a plant to produce 500,000 tonnes per year in the Red Sea port of Yanbu. It would not reveal the estimated cost of the project, but such plants cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Five other plants are either under advanced planning, under construction or already in operation in Saudi Arabia, with the help of cheap government loans.

Together they are due to have 3.5 million tonnes of capacity by early 1997, in addition to Alujain's 500,000.

MTBE is a petrochemical product that helps cut carbon monoxide emissions and also raises octane levels to make gasoline more valuable.

The United States' 1990 clean air act started requiring gasoline using MTBE or similar additives in the most polluted regions from

last November and will generalise its use from 1995.

"According to a recent market study for Alujain by Chem Systems, global demand for MTBE is expected to increase significantly during the 1990s as a result of the implementation of environmental legislation in the U.S. and other industrial countries," Alujain said in a statement.

Chem Systems are U.S.-British petrochemical consultants.

The study expects MTBE demand to rise from eight million tonnes in 1991 to 23 million in 1995 and 29 million in the year 2000. The Saudi plants would have capacity representing about one-seventh of world demand by the end of the decade.

The MTBE market currently appears oversupplied in the United States, with the product selling on the spot market for about one-third less than buyers with long-term contracts are paying. But traders and analysts there say rising demand in 1994 and 1995 will overtake supply, and prices should rise.

The Saudi projects are counting on that.

The contract to ABB Lummus Crest, a U.S. unit of the Swedish-Swiss company ASEA Brown Boveri A.G., requires a "bankable" feasibility study and implementation plan by August — one that can be used to raise finance.

Alujain is a joint stock company with Saudi and other Gulf Arab shareholders.

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## Two leading political parties virtually tied in Cambodian election results

PHNOM PENH (R) — The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the main opposition royalist party were virtually tied Sunday as vote counting continued following the country's first multiparty elections in decades.

With fewer than half a million ballots counted out of 4.2 million cast, the CPP of Prime Minister Hun Sen won 189,005, or 41.1 per cent, while royalist Funcinpec took 184,497, or 40.1 per cent, the U.N. announced.

While the royalists were swamping the CPP in the capital, the opposite was true in the countryside.

With 45 per cent of the Phnom Penh vote counted, the Royalists had 88,735 to the CPP's 49,045. But in underpopulated Ratanak

kiri province in the far northeast, the CPP took 15,605 votes to only 982 for Funcinpec.

The 18 other parties that participated in the U.N.-run, six-day national poll trailed far behind, led by the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party of former Prime Minister Son Sann with 14,612 votes nationwide, or 3.2 per cent.

Funcinpec, a French acronym for National United Front For an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, is led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

On Saturday night, after U.N. counters reported preliminary results showing Funcinpec in the lead, the government radio and television stations said the U.N.

figures were confused and could cause disorder.

"We hope UNTAC (the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia) will be more impartial," senior CPP spokesman Sok An told reporters Sunday.

Although the radical Khmer Rouge threatened violence to stop people voting in the elections it boycotted, the polls were almost without incident.

But that has done little to persuade Cambodians that the calm will continue through the transition period that is to lead the country away from a quarter century of political turgidity towards democracy.

"We might face difficulties even in the military field," Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Saturday. "I am very frightened that the

Khmer Rouge will return to Phnom Penh," said Bo, a 21-year-old student.

"I think that if Hun Sen loses the election, the police and army will stay loyal to him and will not join Funcinpec," said a 22-year-old farming student.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge pot Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s that killed a million people through execution, starvation, disease and forced labour.

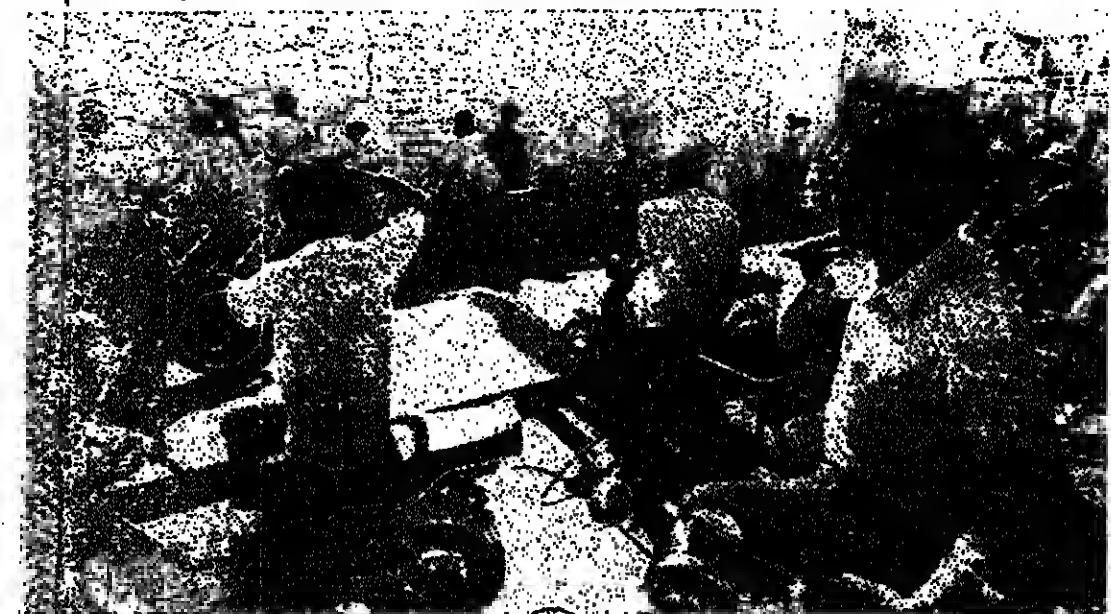
They were originally included in the U.N. peace plan because of their military strength, but balked at disarmament and dropped out of the elections saying the vote was part of a plot to turn Cambodia into a Vietnamese colony.

Prince Sihanouk said the 90 per cent voter turnout in the election was an historic rejection of the Khmer Rouge.

Funcinpec describes itself as a liberal democratic party and has urged accommodation with Khmer Rouge members, if not with Pol Pot and other leaders from the "killing fields" years. Its approach is diametrically opposed to the CPP's which sees no role for the Khmer Rouge in the future of Cambodia and is pledged to wiping out its guerrillas.

The CPP was born of the Communist Party Vietnam put in power after it drove the Khmer Rouge out of Phnom Penh in January, 1979. It now advocates market economics.

At stake in the election are 120 seats in a constituent assembly that will write a constitution, within three months, and then form a government.



A crowd waiting for election results gathers around a giant official election scoreboard with a map of Cambodia in front of the royal palace in Phnom Penh (AFP photo)

## Serb barrage kills 6 in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces poured artillery and tank fire on Sarajevo and attacked Muslim defence lines around the beleaguered east Bosnian enclave of Gorazde Sunday.

U.N. peacekeepers were forced to take shelter in bunkers at their Sarajevo headquarters by the intensity of a shelling blitz that began before dawn and continued throughout the morning.

At least six people were killed and 30 wounded, city hospitals said at noon.

Barry Frewer, a spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) told reporters: "It's a tinderbox situation (in Sarajevo). The slightest provocation seems to set things off."

U.N. military observers said the bulk of the firing hit areas of the Bosnian capital held by the Muslim-led government.

Streets were virtually deserted after Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio warned: "Due to the exceptionally grave security situation in the city, citizens are urged to take maximum security precautions."

Muslim and Serb forces fought an intense tank, mortar and artillery battle for almost an hour early Sunday on Trebevic Mountain which overlooks the city.

Fires broke out on the pine-clad slopes of the mountain whose upper reaches are controlled by Serbs who have besieged

Sarajevo since Bosnia's civil war erupted 14 months ago.

Maj. Frewer said UNPROFOR was trying to persuade the Serbs to allow military observers to go to Gorazde which has been under fierce attack since Friday, according to Sarajevo Radio.

It reported Saturday that 17 Muslim villages in the enclave, where up to 70,000 Muslims are trapped, were set on fire and that Muslim defence lines had been breached in two places.

"We're very concerned about reports from that area," Maj. Frewer said. "We have seen the Bosnian Serbs, in particular, are not following through on their written agreements."

The Serbs have refused to allow the military observers to go to Gorazde because they say UNPROFOR and the Muslims have not honoured promises to demilitarise the Muslim enclaves of Srebrenica and Zepa in eastern Zepa.

Gorazde is the last Muslim stronghold in the region which the Serbs have not yet captured or neutralised.

It has been proposed as a U.N. safe area under a new peace plan drafted by the West and Russia since Bosnian Serbs rejected a U.N.-backed peace plan that would have placed eastern Bosnia under Muslim control.

The region was ethnically mixed when fighting began, with

Muslims controlling most of its towns from where they have now been expelled.

The onslaught on Gorazde and Sarajevo and the extension of the Serb offensive to Maglaj in northern Bosnia in defiance of cease-fire agreements challenged prospects that the safe areas concept would mature.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has warned that U.N. peacekeepers can be deployed in the safe areas only with the consent of the warring parties and after a bolder ceasefire.

Sarajevo Radio said Maglaj, which has a mixed Muslim and Croat population of 45,000 and has been under attack for almost two weeks, was heavily shelled by Serb artillery Sunday morning.

It reported that Muslim positions around Brcko in northern Bosnia were also hit and that Serb helicopters were flying in the region and flouting the U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia.

Leaders of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic in Bosnia and the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which has been set up on captured territory in Croatia met in Bijeljina in northern Bosnia Saturday to discuss unification.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said they agreed that unification, which he described as a "strategic goal," should take place gradually.



Seventeen-year-old Imela Nogic (centre) is congratulated by second-placed 16-year-old Džana Šehić (right) and Marija Misic, third place, after winning the "Miss Besieged Sarajevo" beauty contest (AFP photo)

## 'Miss Besieged Sarajevo' chosen

SARAJEVO (R) — The 17-year-old high school student chosen "Miss Besieged Sarajevo" in the Bosnian capital wore her bathing suit under her fancy clothes in the competition because changing facilities were limited.

Imela Nogic, who confessed a passion for motorcycles, was selected from among 13 finalists in a contest postponed once this week because the war-torn city had no electricity. The 13 contestants paraded before judges, a boisterous audience of about

300, local press and a gaggle of war correspondents and photographers from around the world. Well-known Bosnian folk and pop singers entertained the crowd between segments of the competition. "I have nothing to fight with but my beauty, so I think it's very important to do something like this," said 17-year-old contestant Emma Cikic. "It's just for fun," said Amira Branovic, another contestant. "Since Sarajevo is besieged they can't even take us out for a holiday." Reminders of war were never

far away during the beauty contest. At one point contestants in swim-suits posed with a banner, written in English, saying "Don't let them kill us." Sarajevo has been surrounded by rebel Serb forces since Bosnia erupted in civil war 14 months ago. More than 10 per cent of the city's 380,000 people have been killed or wounded in the siege. The sound of at least one mortar bomb could be heard above the din of the proceedings, although Sarajevo was enjoying a relatively quiet day by war-time standards.

## Guatemalan leader steps back from power seizure

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Under pressure at home and abroad, Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano has announced he was stepping back from authoritarian rule adopted five days before.

Mr. Serrano said he would draw up a transition plan, including election of a new Congress, to be submitted to the people for approval in a referendum within 90 days.

Mr. Serrano's message was broadcast as he met the Organisation of American States (OAS) Secretary General, Jose Baena Soares, who was in Guatemala to press OAS demands for a return to constitutional rule.

The president has been ruling by decree since Tuesday, when he suspended the constitution, the Congress and the Supreme Court in a self-styled crusade against drug-trafficking and corruption.

"In the transition rules, will be included the election of a Congress which will have legislative functions from its installation until the end of current presidential term," Mr. Serrano said.

Mr. Serrano was reading a statement, released later by his press office, entitled "President Serrano's commitment to democracy and proposal to return to institutional normality."

He appeared to be responding to rejection of his hardline measures expressed by the international community, much of Guatemalan society and sectors of the military.

Guatemala City has been awash with rumours for the past two days that some members of the army were planning to step in this weekend to overthrow Mr. Serrano and restore the constitution — rumours that some diplomats regarded as certainty.

## Pentagon to change fighting strategy

NEW YORK (R) — The Pentagon is moving toward a new strategy in which the U.S. military would no longer plan on fighting two major wars at once but would bundle them in turn, the New York Times reported in its Sunday editions.

Under the new approach, if conflicts broke out at the same time in two regions, military force would be used decisively to win one war while air power and a limited number of ground forces would be used to hold the line in another, it said.

After the first war was won, the United States would shift its forces to win a second victory, a strategy Pentagon officials have dubbed "win-hold-win," the New York Times said, quoting unnamed Pentagon officials.

The emerging approach marks a departure from the former Bush administration's strategy that the United States needs forces and weapons to handle two large regional wars at the same time — a decision it reached after the demise of the Soviet Union, the newspaper said.

The newspaper quoted Vernon Guidry, spokesman for Defence Secretary Les Aspin, as acknowledging a change in strategy was being considered but saying Mr. Aspin had made no final decision.

Mr. Aspin "will consult with other members of the national security team before presenting recommendations to the president," Mr. Guidry told the paper.

Meanwhile President Bill Clinton vowed Saturday to make sure U.S. military power remains the strongest in the world despite deep cuts in defence spending brought on by the end of the cold war.

"I will do my part and I think the Congress will too, to make sure our forces are always ready to fight and win on a moment's notice," Mr. Clinton said in a



U.S. President Bill Clinton watches the graduating class of West Point Military Academy throw their hats in the air (AFP photo)

commencement address to the corp of cadets graduating from West Point — the U.S. military academy.

Mr. Clinton is trying to regain his footing after a few difficult weeks where he faced controversy over a \$200 haircut, a flap over firing seven travel office employees and sagging popularity in public opinion polls.

The president, in a passing reference to some of his troubles, told the West Point graduates "I must say I am impressed by your haircuts."

He made no reference to other controversies surrounding his young presidency including his plan to allow homosexuals to serve in the military.

Mr. Clinton, the first president since World War II with no military experience, promised the graduates he would do whatever necessary to ensure they have the tools needed to defend the country even as he and other lawmakers seek to cut military spending.

"The budget cuts that have come at the end of the cold war were necessary and even welcomed, appropriate in light of the collapse of the Soviet Union and other changes," Mr. Clinton said.

However, he said: "We must be mindful even as we try so hard to reduce this terrible national deficit that there is a limit beyond which we must not go. We have to ensure that the United States is ready, ready to win and superior to all other military forces in the world."

The United States faces a whole new set of challenges, as old, unresolved conflicts re-emerge after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Mr. Clinton told the 1,003 graduating cadets.

"As we scan today's bloodiest conflicts from the former Soviet Union to Yugoslavia to Armenia to Sudan, the dynamics of the cold war have been replaced by many of the dynamics of old war," he said.

## N. Korea: U.S. pressure will not work

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea warned the United States Sunday it would not yield to pressure in this week's talks on the North's refusal to accept further international inspections of its nuclear programme.

The warning came as the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported the departure of Kang Sok Ju, first vice minister of foreign affairs, Sunday for talks with U.S. officials in New York.

The official Workers (communist) Party newspaper Rodong Sinmun urged the United States to use the talks to end what it said were hostile policies toward North Korea.

Remarks by American officials before the talks, however, "give the impression that they intend to use the upcoming talks as an opportunity to put pressure on (North Korea), thinking that things will go as they please if they do so. It is a mistake if the United States intends to use the talks in finding justification for 'sanction' against (the North)."

"No pressure can work on (North Korea); and the problem cannot be solved by such means," said the commentary, carried by the official news agency and monitored in Tokyo.

It was referring to the possibility of the U.N. Security Council adopting sanctions against North Korea for dropping out of an international nuclear controls treaty and refusing to accept further outside inspections.

The North's action reinforced suspicions that it was developing nuclear weapons, despite its denials.

The Security Council has adopted a resolution urging the North to rejoin the treaty, and left open the possibility of sanctions.

The North dropped out of the treaty in response to demands by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for expanded inspections to clear up discrepancies found in earlier checks of North Korean nuclear facilities.

The North contended that the IAEA demand was part of a U.S. tactic to spy on North Korean military installations.

Meanwhile Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen responded coolly Sunday to a Japanese request that Peking pressure North Korea to resolve the dispute over its suspected nuclear arms programme, Tokyo news reports said.

Mr. Qian, on the second day of an official visit to Japan, held talks with ailing former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe Sunday at a Tokyo hotel.

Japanese officials quoted by Kyodo News Agency said Mr. Watanabe urged China to make more effort to persuade Pyongyang to take back its decision to pull out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

"Japan wants China to make efforts to ensure that North Korea complies with a request from the international community," Mr. Watanabe said.

Mr. Qian gave a noncommittal response, the Japanese officials said.

## Ukraine wants talks on Black Sea Fleet

KIEV (R) — Ukraine protested officially to Russia at the weekend in the latest flare-up of a row over the former Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said moves by auxiliary support ships, including tugs and tankers but not warships, to raise the Russian St. Andrew Flag violated an agreement under which the fleet would fly the old Soviet ensign until a dispute over its ownership was settled.

"This...undermines the basis for possible future agreements on dividing the fleet," the Foreign

Ministry said in a protest delivered Saturday.

Ukraine called for urgent negotiations between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk. Earlier, the Ukrainian president's press office said Mr. Kravchuk was ready to meet Mr. Yeltsin to discuss the issue.

More than 200 ships have already raised the blue cross of St. Andrew used by other parts of the Russian Navy.

The crews say they are raising the flags as a protest over poor conditions and pay.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry said this weekend it would stop financing those vessels that fly the St. Andrew Flag from June 1 onwards.

Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov proclaimed all ships raising the Russian flag to be foreign vessels and demanded immediate talks with Moscow. He accused of playing a political game.

The ships of the Black Sea Fleet have been a bone of contention between Russia and Ukraine ever since the Soviet Union broke up in 1991.

## 40 years on, Queen Elizabeth's crown loses some glitter

LONDON (R) — Forty years ago this week, Britain crowned its youthful Queen Elizabeth in a solemn pageant and proclaimed a glorious era of national revival.

As the great day dawned, the heavens opened and it poured with rain. With hindsight, royal watchers might see the day-long downpour as an omen.

A silver-haired Queen Elizabeth marks her coronation anniversary Wednesday with her achievements overshadowed by domestic upset in the House of Windsor and discontent about the scale of royal riches in a country smarting from a recession.

Royal marriage ructions have fuelled a mood of questioning about the institutional cornerstones of British life — from parliament to the police — and given the old exhortations to a long and glorious reign a slightly hollow ring.

A poll published Saturday found most people respected the queen but thought she was too "glum." Minor royals were told to get "worthwhile jobs" to cut

the cost of the monarchy.

When Queen Elizabeth took her place on the throne in 1953, after 16 months of mourning for the death of her father George VI, the nation rejoiced at its fresh-faced monarch and bungled the bunting to celebrate the end of post-war austerity.

At the queen's request, the coronation at Westminster Abbey was televised live for those who could afford sets and signalled a more modern, open style for an institution that could trace its roots back to the feudal days of 9th century England.

Newspapers declared the "gleaming lady" would enjoy a great reign like Elizabeth I, who had presided over a nation growing in stature as a trading power. The conquest of Mount Everest by a British expedition just days before the ceremony crowned the moment of national pride.

This month's royal souvenir edition of the listings guide The Radio Times recorded the fond memories of loyal subjects who

turned out to salute the queen.

"When her carriage went past — the effect it had on me as well as the other lads it felt as though your heart was bursting, you were virtually crying as you presented arms to the queen," said Richard Smith of Shipley, northern England, who was a soldier on duty during the coronation.

But the first coronation to be beamed live to the nation ushered in an era of increasing conflict between the crown and the press, reflecting growing irreverence for authority.

The coronation anniversary takes place against the noisy background of media debate about the monarchy as supposed guardian of public morals, symbol of the "United Kingdom" and lavish reminder of Britain's imperial heritage.

Irreverent commentators openly question whether their apparent Prince Charles can ever expect to find himself robed, crowned and anointed one day in London's Westminster Abbey

## Father of slain Japan schoolboy to set up U.S. fund

TOKYO (R) — The father of a Japanese exchange student shot dead in Louisiana says he will establish a fund to invite American teenagers to Japan to see for themselves how safe it is here, the daily Yomiuri Shimbun said Sunday.

"I would like to establish the Yoshi Fund to invite American high school pupils to Japan so they can see how safe life is in Japan and reflect on their experiences in the United States," Masaoichi Hattori said after arriving in Japan, according to Yomiuri. Mr. Hattori returned from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he had attended the trial of the man who fatally shot his 16-year-old son, Yoshihiro, last Oct. 17. The jury last week acquitted Rodney Peairs, 30, of manslaughter charges. Yoshihiro was shot when he knocked on the Peairs' door while looking for a Halloween costume party.

Lawyers for Mr. Peairs argued that the former butcher fired on Hattori in self-defence because he was concerned for his family's safety. "I hope this case will give Americans an opportunity to reconsider the use of guns," Mr. Hattori was quoted as saying. "I also hope U.S. organisations calling for gun control are able to prompt greater awareness. Guns are virtually outlawed in Japan, which takes pride in its safe streets and low crime rate."

## Japan women face hardships getting hired, promoted

TOKYO (R) — Japan may have an equal employment law but many women still face hurdles finding jobs let alone rising up the corporate ladder, according to a Labour Ministry survey. Over 40 per cent of the 5,400 companies responding to the survey said they hired only male high school or university graduates during their annual spring recruitment.

By sector, 49 per cent of the companies seeking technical high school graduates said they did not recruit women. Among non-manufacturers, 34 per cent said they did not employ women among university job-seekers, the report said. The majority of firms, asked why they limited employment to men, replied that women were under-qualified or lacked training and that men were easier to employ. Some said women just did not respond to their company's job advertisements.

Forty-two per cent of the firms said they had no women in managerial positions, citing as a main factor the "unsuitability of the weaker sex." There was little good news from those firms which did promote their women staff. Only 6.4 per cent of the women employed had reached low-management positions, while 2.3 per cent had made it to section chief. Women accounted for only 1.2 per cent of company senior posts, beginning with department head and up.

## Mother arrested after helping son escape from jail

ARCADIA, Florida (AP) — A 32-year-old man serving a 120-year sentence remained at large after his parolee-mother helped him escape from prison. Buddy Rollison jumped over 2.4-metre and three-metre walls, which were wired to a security system and draped with razor ribbon, and took off in a waiting car Saturday morning, said Desoto Correctional Institution spokesman Bob Heinz. A 32-kilometre chase ended with Mr. Rollison fleeing from the car on foot and the arrest of his 52-year-old mother, Jimmie J. Lockler Wyzykowski. She had waited for her son in the car at the 1,100-inmate prison, Mr. Heinz said. She was on parole after being sentenced to life in prison for attempted murder and conspiracy to commit armed robbery in 1981 in Suwannee County. She had served about 10 years of her sentence and was released in June 1992, according to Mr. Heinz. Mr. Rollison, sentenced in 1982 in Broward County to 120 years for false imprisonment, robbery and grand theft, had been in prison since 1983, Mr. Heinz said. A prison officer who saw Mr. Rollison jump the fences contacted the control room, which in the turn alerted the Florida Highway Patrol. Sheriff's deputies and canine patrols continued searching for the convict after the chase.

## Get a job, China tells party staff

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party, the last major ruling communist club on earth, is urging its staff to forget their political scruples and get jobs in the private sector to promote economic growth. The State Administration of Industry and Commerce has issued new rules the 50-million-strong party, as well as redundant government officials, are welcome to join the bourgeoisie, the official China Daily said.



## French Open

## Sampras, Edberg cruise on clay

PARIS (AP) — Who said serve-and-volleyers can't excel on clay? Pete Sampras and Stefan Edberg are doing just fine.

The top-seeded Sampras and No. 3 Edberg cruised into the round of 16 at the French Open Saturday with straight-set victories, establishing themselves as real threats to wrest the title from the baseline brigade.

Sampras enjoyed a late-afternoon stroll in a centre court, sweeping past Jonas Svensson of Sweden 6-4, 6-4, 6-2, in a little over two hours. Edberg had only a slightly tougher time in downing American Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-4, 7-6.

Other fourth-round berths were filled by No. 10 Sergi Bruguera, No. 11 Andrei Medvedev, No. 16 Malvika Washington and a group of unseeded gatecrashers: Marc Goellner of Germany, Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands and qualifier Fernando Meligeni. The biggest surprise was Meligeni, a Brazilian ranked 167th in the world who rallied from two sets down to beat German Patrick Kuhn 3-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, 8-6.

Form continued to hold in the women's competition, with No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, No. 3 Gabriela Sabatini and No. 5 Mary Joe Fernandez winning in straight sets to reach the round of 16.

Despite his No. 1 ranking and seeding, Sampras was not considered the favourite here because of the slow surface. No. 2 Jim Courier, the two-time defending champion with the punishing backcourt game, remains the consensus pick.

The smooth-stroking Sampras did not play brilliant tennis Saturday, and yet he never found himself in trouble against Svensson, a solid clay-court veteran. "I don't want to say I played bad, I just didn't hit the ball that great today," Sampras said. "But competed well and I got the points I needed to get."

Sampras, who won the U.S. open on hard courts in 1990, said his outlook towards clay has changed since he began trying to master the surface last year. Edberg had words of praise for Stark.

The plays a little bit similar to me," he said. "He's got a great serve. He needs to improve his movement. He doesn't move that well forward. He looks a bit awkward sometimes. But he's a great talent."

Another rising talent is Goellner, who pulled out a 3-6, 7-6

(7-1), 6-3, 6-7 (8-10), 7-5 victory over Mark Woodforde in a match that lasted 3:49.

The 6-foot-5 German, who wears his baseball hat backwards, pounded 31 aces, including nine in the final set. His next opponent will be Medvedev, the 18-year-old Ukrainian who beat Gabriel Markus 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

"I was extremely nervous in the first set," Medvedev said. "I was shaking, really shaking. It took a long time, but finally I beat it. In the fourth set, it was a completely different story. I was confident and I knew I could hit my best shots."

In the last match of the day, Washington outlasted fellow American Derrick Rostagno 7-6 (7-5), 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Bruguera, one of the hottest clay-court specialists of the season, crushed Magnus Larsson 6-1, 6-3, 6-1. He has lost only five games in his past two matches. Haarhuis beat Carl Uwe Steeb 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-1.

Sanchez Vicario, seeded to meet Steffi Graf in the women's final, rolled past Leila Meskhi 6-3, 6-0. Sabatini prevailed 6-2, 6-2, over Barbara Rittner, and Fernandez beat fellow Floridian Kathy Rinaldi 6-2, 6-2.

Fernandez, who has never won a Grand Slam event, said this could be her chance.

"That is my goal," she said. "I think I am playing well enough. I can beat anyone."

**Increased security accepted by fans, players**

The effects of Monica Seles' stabbing are unmistakable at the French Open — players flanked by bodyguards, spectators searched by metal detectors and increased vigilance throughout the grounds.

Halfway through the tournament, however, there have been no serious incidents and players and fans alike generally accept the increased security as a necessary inconvenience.

"The key to success is prevention. The proof is that after one week, we haven't had a single serious problem," said Herve Durtrel, deputy tournament director.

Security guards in dark suits are positioned in court-side seats behind the players' chairs. During the changeovers, they stand up and survey the crowd, mindful that Seles was stabbed during a tournament in Hamburg on April



World No. 1 Pete Sampras

30 by a spectator who leaned over a barrier.

In one minor incident symbolizing the increased vigilance, a Swedish coach, Tim Klein, was stopped by agents guarding the players' lounge when they found he was carrying a pair of scissors. Klein said he was about to be hauled off until he explained that he only wanted to cut the sleeves off his players' T-shirts.

The No. 1 seeds of the men's and women's divisions here, Jim Courier and Steffi Graf, said they are not overly concerned by the security threats.

At the request of her coach, however, Graf has had a personal guard shadowing her everywhere she goes.

Guards form a human cordon around players when they walk to and from outside courts, keeping away autograph-hunters, trying to approach their idols.

"It's true that we are hard on the autograph seekers," said one guard, who gave his name as Gontrand. "If the player doesn't

want to give them, then we have to be like police. We are then called 'gorillas'."

Fans waiting to get into the grounds Saturday didn't complain about being searched.

"No problem," said one fan, who gave his name only as Robert. "We're searched at airports and other stadiums. Why not at Roland Garros?"

"Monica is my idol," said a 13-year-old girl named Carole. "It's really sad what happened. But it's really not a problem to be searched."

**French Open with no French**

For the first time since 1978, no French male player has reached the fourth round of the French Open.

There were 19 Frenchmen in the draw, but 14 were eliminated in the first round and four lost in the second round. The only survivor was Rodolphe Gilbert, who upset Boris Becker but then lost in the third round to Cislav

Dosedel of Czechoslovakia.

"The series of defeats might make you think that our tennis has gone down the tubes," said Georges Goven, France's current Davis Cup captain. "That's not the case. We still have 10 players in the top 100 and we won the Davis Cup two years ago. It's true we're disappointed with the results here, but if you look at them closely you can find plausible explanations."

**STEFFI AND NO. 1:** Steffi Graf will have to reach the French Open final in order to reclaim the No. 1 ranking from Monica Seles, who is recovering from her stabbing of April 30.

There had been the possibility that Graf could become No. 1 just by reaching the semifinals, but the Women's Tennis Association said Saturday that with the remaining players in her half of the draw she can't earn the necessary 78 bonus points unless she gets to the final.

**GEOGRAPHY LESSON:** What do Guatemala, Cuba, Nicaragua, Libya, Ethiopia and Yemen have in common?

They are among the handful of countries which are not receiving the television feed from the French Open.

The good news, however, is that Mongolia, Sudan, Vietnam, North Korea and Afghanistan have been added to the list of countries getting television coverage.

The number of countries broadcasting the tournament has more than doubled in three years. In 1990 there were 60 countries, compared to 130 today.

**French Open glance**

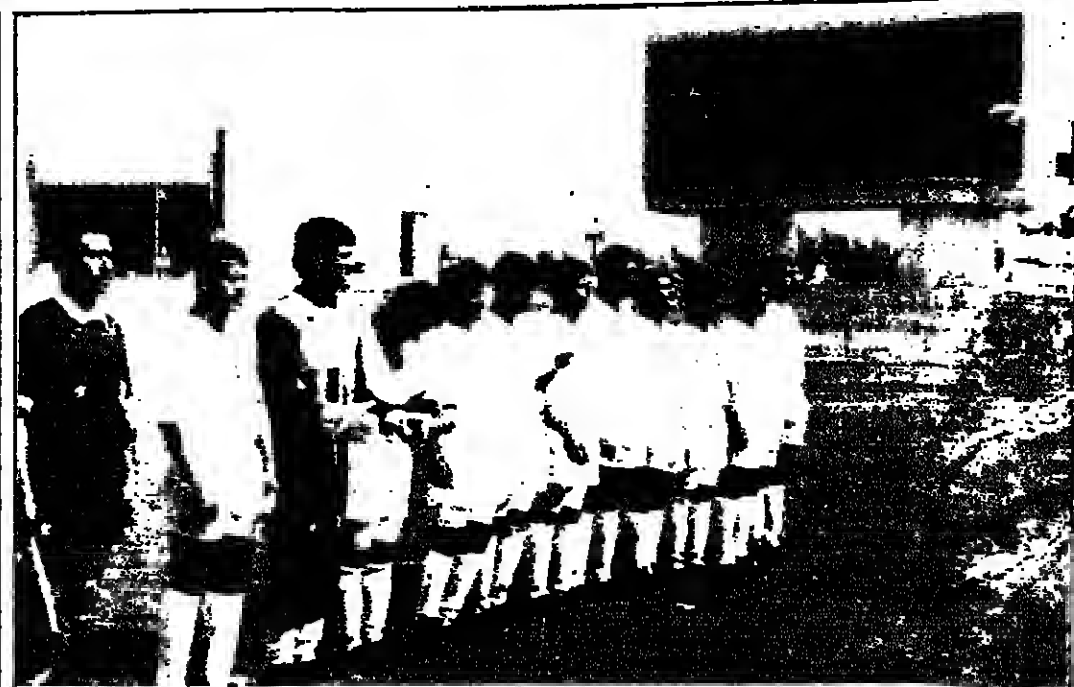
A quick look at Saturday's play, the sixth day of the French Open:

Attendance — 27,093 at Roland Garros Stadium (27,404 in 1992).

Weather — Sunny and windy. Results — Men: Pete Sampras (1) and Stefan Edberg (3) won in three sets.

Women: Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (2), Gabriela Sabatini (3) and Mary Joe Fernandez (5) advanced to the fourth round with straight-set victories.

Quote — "I kind of caught myself in the third set, looking down and seeing the Red Clay, and thinking, 'here I am.' It was a special feeling," Jonathan Stark after his Centre Court loss to Stefan Edberg.



Jordan's national team

## World Cup qualifying matches

## Jordan scores first win

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

**M O H A M M A D A L** ASHHAB Sunday scored two of his team's three goals as Jordan overcame Pakistan 3-1 scoring their first win in the Asian Group A qualifying matches for the 1994 World Cup.

Al Ashhab, a player of former second division club Sahab, put his team in the lead in the 9th minute scoring an easy goal to the left of Pakistani goalkeeper Taj Din Aziz after receiving a pass from Hisham Abdul Mun'em.

Jordan, who needed to win by scoring a big number of goals to advance their standing, continued to attack by Al Ashhab, Subhi Suleiman, and Jamal Mahmoud. However, the Pakistani goalkeeper, a substitute for injured Malek Mateen, was quite alert and upset Al Ashhab's second scoring chance in the 20th minute.

The first half ended 1-0. In the second half, Jordan lost quite a few chances. Firas Al Khalailah missed an easy shot metres away from the Pakistani goal in the 50th minute. A minute later striker Aref Hussein's shot from the same distance was blocked by a Pakistani defender only to reach Suleiman who kicked it high above the post.

Aref Hussein made up for all the lost chances by scoring the second goal in the 56th minute after receiving a long accurate pass from Ahmad Al Shaqran. Pakistan scored their second goal to the week-long tournament by Zahir Ahmad in the 77th minute.

na, June 12.

**Teams:**  
Jordan: Mohammad Abu Daoud, Hisham Abdul Mun'em (Ali Al Zub'bi), Subhi Suleiman, (Jihad Abdul Mun'em), Jamal Mahmoud, Mohammad Al Kaza'li, Ahmad Al Shaqran, Firas Al Khalailah, Aref Hussein, Jami al Abu Abed, Murad Al Harsani, and Mohammad Al Ashhab.

Pakistan: Taj Din Aziz, Abdul Farouq Rahman, Sher Mohammad, Haroun Yousef, Taher Agha, Imtiaz Butt, Farouq Aziz (Ghulam Rasheed), Qazi Ashfaq, Saleem Mohammad (Zaher Ahmad), Aamir Butt, Taher Pervaz.

## Schedule of second leg of matches in Chengdu, China

★ Saturday, June 12 Yemen vs. Jordan China vs. Pakistan	★ Friday, June 18 Iraq vs. Pakistan China vs. Yemen
★ Monday, June 14 Iraq vs. Jordan Pakistan vs. Yemen	★ Sunday, June 20 Pakistan vs. Jordan China vs. Iraq
★ Wednesday, June 16 China vs. Jordan	

## Standings after Sunday's first match

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	3	2	1	—	15	2	5
Yemen	4	2	1	1	8	8	5
China	3	2	—	1	8	1	4
Jordan	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Pakistan	4	—	—	4	2	21	0

## Wright salvages draw for England

CHORZOW, Poland (R) — Substitute Ian Wright scored his first international goal to salvage a 1-1 draw for England in a bruising World Cup qualifier against Poland Saturday.

The Arsenal striker hit home a first-time half-volley from a cross by Tony Dorico in the 83rd minute after Dariusz Adamczuk gave the Poles the lead with a beautiful lob on the run in the 36th minute.

Wright's late goal, just 10 minutes after coming on, saved England from a defeat which would have dealt a devastating blow to their hopes of qualifying from Group Two.

The result left England on nine points from six matches, the same tally as leaders Norway, who have played a game less. The Netherlands have eight points from six games with fourth-placed Poland on eight from five.

The match in the industrial Polish town of Chorzow was marred by stone and stick throwing and riot police were forced to intervene with batons and shields to break up the rival fans, some of whom were not segregated.

Meanwhile England manager Graham Taylor, relieved that his team snatched a World Cup point in Poland after running around like headless chickens, admits he has some things to put right before they play Norway Wednesday.

"I was very, very disappointed with our defending early on we were playing too many square balls in defence," said Taylor.

"We were running around like headless chickens. We got carried away by the atmosphere but you can't play football in those circumstances."

"We know we were disappointing that we've got to put it right against Norway," he added.

The match evoked memories of Poland's 1-1 draw at Wembley in



Polish soccer fans battle with police prior to the World Cup qualifier between England and Poland. The match ended on a 1-1 draw (AFP photo)

1973 which prevented England reaching the 1974 World Cup finals.

Bot England managed to capitalise on their second half domination when Wright replaced midfielder Carlton Palmer.

Dorico, playing at left-back because of an injury to Martin Keown, sent over a cross from the left wing which evaded the tired Polish defenders and was met by Wright. Goalkeeper Jaroslaw Bako could only parry the ball into the net.

Adamczuk, who plays for Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt, looked like he had won a glorious victory for Poland when he beat England defender Des Walker to a long through ball and chipped over stranded goalkeeper Chris Woods.

But Poland were left thinking what might have been after missing two golden chances.

Striker Marek Lesniak, slicing a way through the heart of the England defence, struck the ball wide in the second minute with

only Woods to beat. Lesniak also missed an easy chance shortly after halftime. Woods miskicked straight into his path inside the penalty area but the Pole shot straight at the keeper, who deflected the ball past the post with his left leg.

"We made one mistake which resulted in conceding a goal and we did not take advantage of England's shortcomings," Polish coach Andrzej Streliau said.

England often looked slow and vulnerable in defence but also went close to scoring.

Today's performance, looking for a debut goal, shrugged off his marker inside the penalty box after 28 minutes but rifled his shot straight at goalkeeper Bako from close range.

Wright has waited for two years and nine games to find the net for his country. "It's great to score my first goal for England but I've never doubted myself," he said.

"The Polish fans were making a fantastic noise but it was good to give them something to shut them up."

## Bulls reduce Knicks' lead

CHICAGO (R) — It was a happy homecoming in Chicago Saturday when the Bulls routed the New York Knicks 103-83 to climb back into the Eastern Conference finals.

Scottie Pippen scored 29 points and Michael Jordan had 22 as the two-time defending champion Bulls, after losing games one and two in New York, narrowed the margin in the best-of-seven series to 2-1.

"I felt we needed some home cooking. We came in and the crowd inspired us," said Jordan. "Everybody stepped up the intensity."

New York's Patrick Ewing scored the first basket of the game, a thunderous dunk, but from then on it was Bulls all the way before a roaring crowd at Chicago Stadium.

The Bulls, hoping to become only the third team in the 46-year history of the NBA to win three consecutive titles, led 34-23 at the end of the first quarter and started the second quarter with an 18-8 spurt to take control of the game.

The Bulls' run was built on fullcourt pressing defence that forced a series of Knicks turnovers and on confident Chicago marksmanship around the friendly home hoops.

John Paxson, who started the run with a 19-foot jumper and ended it with a three-pointer, scored eight points to fuel the spurt. Trent Tucker and Pippen also had three-pointers in the run.

Jordan, who got his 22 points despite hitting only three of 18 shots from the field, gave a lot of credit to Paxson.

"John hit some big shots," Jordan said. "I missed mine but I'm glad I've got teammates," he said.

The Bulls built a 62-43 lead at the half and then cruised in the second half.

Jordan, who had 11 assists and eight rebounds with two steals and two blocks, said he tried to compensate for his poor shooting from the floor by doing other things.

"When I saw that my shot wasn't going in, I tried to help out and be a decoy and move the ball around and get it to guys like John," Jordan said.

Jordan, who connected on 16 of 17 shots from the free throw line, scored 16 of his points in the first half including a perfect 12-for-12 from the line.

Pippen said: "I felt Michael did a great job at the top of the court since he wasn't shooting the ball well. I had to step up and contribute after what I did in New York."

Paxson, who shot 5-for-7 including two three-pointers for 14 points, said criticisms of Jordan's late-night gambling trip to an Atlantic City casino on the eve of game two had helped pull the Bulls together.

"We take that personally," Paxson said. "We're a team. We've been a team a long time. It's the only thing we have, and I think it showed today on the floor."

New York coach Pat Riley said: "It was a great win for them and they bounced back. That's what this is all about."

"They were at home and you have to expect that. Maybe we weren't as ready as we should have been but that's why they play seven games."

Game four will be Monday afternoon in Chicago.

The Bulls, improved to 5-0 at home in the playoffs this year as they won their 10th in a row at Chicago Stadium.

## Marseille win record fifth crown

MARSEILLE (R) — European Cup Winners Marseille secured a record fifth consecutive French League title Saturday with a 3-1 home win over rivals Paris St. Germain.

But trouble flared when smoke bombs and missiles were hurled on the pitch and the game was stopped for a few minutes after visiting fans rioted.

Fights erupted when security forces moved in to restore order and several police were slightly injured.

Marseille, who became the first French club to win the European Cup when they beat AC Milan Wednesday, needed only a draw to outclass St. Etienne, crowned four times between 1968 and 1971.

The team built by millionaire Bernard Tapie are now six points clear of Paris SG and Monaco with one game remaining.

Paris midfielder Vincent Guerin opened the scoring after seven minutes but German veteran Rudi Voeller equalised nine minutes later.

Defender Basile Boli, who scored the winner against Milan, put Marseille in front with a superb header in the 36th minute and Croatian marksman Alen Boksic wrapped it up when he collected his 22nd goal of the season with 14 minutes left.

"All the Paris fans were searched before entering the stadium and I wonder how they managed to get smoke bombs," an angry Tapie said. "There will always be a problem with Paris and we will certainly not be looking forward

to playing them here again."

"It's becoming serious and very dangerous," said Paris defender Alain Roche. "We lost all the credit we won in Europe just because a handful of fans can't behave. Something has to be done about it."

The Paris club, who have spent

millions in their bid to end Marseille's dominance of French soccer, lost to Juventus in the UEFA Cup semifinals.

The match was tense on the pitch as well and Paris SG's Brazilian sweeper Ricardo Gomes was sent off early in the second half for brawling the ball.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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**FIND THE EXTRA CHANCE**

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 5  
♥ 8 3  
♦ 8 4  
♣ K Q J 10 7 6 3

**EAST**  
♠ K J 8  
♥ Q 10 6 4  
♦ K 5 2  
♣ A 8 4

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10 3  
♥ A J 8  
♦ A Q J 10  
♣ 9 5 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

There is usually more than one way to tackle a bridge hand. The good players are those who succeed in combining their chances.

Note North's raise to three on trump. Even without the queen of spades, that would be the correct action. This is not the hand for counting points, since it rates to produce six tricks for the no-trump

opener, and that's a lot better than a scattered 10 points.

Obviously, when dummy appears, it seems that all declarer has to do is fave out the ace of clubs to bring home the contract. However, when declarer captures East's jack of spades with the ace and leads a club, West's diamond discard means that, instead of six tricks, South will get only two from the club suit—East will surely hold up the ace until the third round of the suit. Therefore, another source of tricks must be found, and the obvious place is the diamond suit.

To fully utilize the potential of the diamond suit, declarer must use the entries to the table wisely. When East lets dummy win the first club trick, declarer abandons clubs to successfully finesse the two of diamonds. East must hold up on the next club as well, so declarer has another entry with which to repeat the diamond finesse. When the king of diamonds falls under the ace, declarer comes to nine tricks in a roundabout fashion: two spades, one heart, four diamonds and two clubs.

T O D A Y	<p>Cinema Tel.: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD</b></p> <p>1. UNDER SIEGE</p> <p>2. LOOK WHO'S TALKING</p> <p>Shows: 11:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p><b>PLAZA</b></p> <p>Happy Eid Al Adha Adel Imam — in</p> <p><b>The Forgotten</b></p> <p>Arabic</p> <p>Shows at 11 a.m., 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b></p> <p>Happy Eid Al Adha</p> <p>1. Patriot Games</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p> <p>2. Problem Child "2"</p> <p>Shows: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p><b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b></p> <p>The Friends of the Book Society will organise a concert by</p> <p>Jafra Troupe for Folk Arts</p> <p>on Wednesday, June 2, at 5 p.m., and on Thursday, June 3, at 8 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Tel.: 625155</p> <p><b>AHLAN THEATRE</b></p> <p>Happy Eid Al Adha</p> <p>On the occasion of Eid Al Adha</p> <p>1. Welcome Parliament and Budget play</p> <p>on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 and 9 p.m.</p> <p>2. Welcome New World Order</p> <p>H9L9on Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 and 9 p.m.</p>
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Spanish Popular Party leader Jose Maria Aznar (left) and United Left coalition chief Julio Anguita on the campaign trail (AFP photo)

## Spanish right has best chance at power

By Michael M. Phillips  
The Associated Press

MADRID — Spanish conservatives have their best shot at winning power in a decade, according to a series of polls released Sunday, just one week before general elections.

With Spaniards heading to the polls on June 6, survey after survey shows the centre-right popular party with a slight edge over the ruling Socialists, but not enough to win an absolute majority in the 350-seat lower house of parliament.

The electoral race is far and away the closest since the Socialists and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez came to power in 1982, just seven years after right-wing dictator Francisco Franco's death ended more than three decades of one-man rule and paved the way for a return to democracy.

The conservatives of 1993 are not — by a large — the extremists of Gen. Franco's day. The Popular Party is led by 40-year-old former tax inspector Jose Maria Aznar, a professional politician whose policy proposals

are not radically different from their principal opponents.

Both the Socialist and Popular parties have moved towards the centre in the last 18 years, and the crucial issues of this electoral campaign have been more pragmatic than ideological.

It is the country's poor economic performance and allegations that a decade in power has sucked the Socialists into a morass of corruption that appear to have made Mr. Aznar the more persuasive of the two main candidates.

Unemployment here has topped 21 per cent, the economy is in recession and the government has been forced to devalue the peseta three times since August. There have also been repeated charges that Socialist Party officials collected illegal campaign contributions from major corporations.

"We have the proposals and the commitment to cleanse Spain of corruption," Mr. Aznar promised a crowd of students in Madrid this weekend.

His constant attacks on the Socialists' performance especially in the candidates' first televised



Felipe Gonzalez

debate last Monday have taken their toll on the 51-year-old Gonzalez, whose party won a working majority of 175 seats in the last general elections in 1989.

Newspaper polls vary, but almost all indicate that the Popular Party will win more seats in parliament than will the Socialists.

The daily El Pais, which usually tends to be pro-Gonzalez, published a poll Sunday giving the Popular Party 34.8 per cent of the vote to the Socialists' 34.5 per

cent.

The independent El Mundo predicted 35.9 per cent for the Popular Party and 34.6 per cent for the Socialists, while the Basque Nationalist Party is expected to garner 1.5 per cent, the newspaper poll said.

Neither major party has said which other parties they would consider when forming a ruling, although it seems unlikely that either will join with the United Left.

"In any case, there has to be a pact that creates stability if neither party wins enough of a majority to govern," Mr. Gonzalez told La Vanguardia in an interview published Sunday.

Turnout is expected to be high on election Sunday, with El Pais predicting 73 per cent of eligible voters casting a ballot, higher than in either the 1986 or 1989 general elections.

Both Mr. Aznar and Mr. Gonzalez apparently hope they will be able to attract the millions of undecided voters — estimated in some polls to be as high as a third of the electorate — in the second and final televised debate Monday night.

The Catalan nationalist coalition Convergencia i Union is expected to win about 4.9 per cent of the vote, while the Basque Nationalist Party is expected to garner 1.5 per cent, the newspaper poll said.

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## S. African planes reportedly come under tracer fire

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Gunmen recently fired tracer bullets towards passenger planes landing in Johannesburg, forcing authorities to reroute aircraft away from troubled black townships, police said Sunday.

Police patrolling the Tembisa township Thursday night said they saw bursts of tracer bullets headed in the direction of two planes preparing to land at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport.

"We cannot say if they were actually shooting at the aircraft, but tracer rounds were observed going in the direction of the planes," said Police spokeswoman Major Ida van Zweel.

The planes were not hit. Airport officials closed the busy landing path that takes planes over Tembisa, one of several black townships east of Johannesburg that has been wracked by violence in the past week. More than 50 blacks have been killed in fighting that has involved rival black groups and the police.

## Germany offers reward for killers of 5 Turks

SOLINGEN (AP) — The government offered a 100,000-mark (\$60,000) reward Sunday for evidence leading to the arrest of the right-wing radicals who set a fire that killed four Turkish sisters and their visitor.

Turkish representatives and leaders of the political opposition said the violence pointed to the need to integrate foreigners into German society, to keep them from becoming objects of hate attacks.

A Social Democratic leader said the party would push for a law giving the six million long-term foreign residents in Germany — among them 1.8 million Turks — the right to German citizenship.

About 400 Turks held a night-long vigil around a bonfire in front of the burned out apartment house where their compatriots died. The men danced around the fire and some threw in their shirts, as a symbol of solidarity with the victims.

After dawn, as wreaths were heaped on the sidewalk in front of the house, the victims' belongings were laid out in an unlabeled

exhibit of hate crime: A charred metal tray with a stack of molten plastic diapers; scorched bedspreads and chairs; two small dolls.

Federal police spokesman Rolf Hannich said "a large quantity" of evidence had been collected, and said he hoped the reward would speed the investigation.

He would not confirm a report in the Bild Am Sonntag newspaper that police were searching for a 15-year-old neo-Nazi. Neighbors said right-wing kids frequently gathered in the grassy meadow behind the house to drink beer and shout their support for the Third Reich.

Youths with shaven heads, wearing bomber jackets and jackboots, were seen fleeing the house as it exploded into flame before 2 a.m. Saturday.

The victims included four sisters between five and 27 years of age, and a 12-year-old visitor from Turkey. A severely burned seven-month-old baby girl was reportedly close to death.

Turkish Ambassador Onur Oyman said in a radio interview that Germany was not doing enough

to fight violent right-wing groups and should ban them all immediately.

"But these problems can't be solved by police alone. There's a lack of information in the population about our contribution to Germany. Many of us came here at Germany's invitation, we helped build this country."

Mr. Oyman said even Turks born in Germany "are made to feel like second-class citizens." He called for double citizenship rights for long-time residents.

"If we had the right to vote we could pressure the politicians to do something," said Ali Guch, 23, who has lived in Germany since he was 11. "Otherwise they'll never listen to us."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said during a visit to Turkey two weeks ago that he might support double citizenship, but that foreign residents given it would have to choose one nationality or the other after five years.

It is difficult — and expensive — for anyone without proof of German ancestry to get citizenship in Germany. At the same time, the country's

1949 constitution allowed any foreigner to seek political asylum in Germany. But that right was taken away in a vote of parliament last week. Most asylum-seekers will be turned back at Germany's borders after the law goes into effect July 1.

During the debate on asylum, the opposition Social Democrats tried unsuccessfully to also change the citizenship law.

Herta Daubler-Gmelin, a party leader, said Sunday she hoped the violence at Solingen would move conservative deputies to accept double citizenship.

"There's no direct connection to what happened in Solingen, but this could be a symbolic sign that foreigners are welcome here," she said in a telephone interview.

Some conservatives, however, said the attack only showed the need for greater police powers. "Society must be more vigilant," said Interior Minister Rudolf Seiters. "We need a social compact between state and citizens against anyone who thinks he can take violence into his own hands."

## Germans in quandary on how to fight far right

By Tom Heneghan

Reuter

BONN — Neither candle-light protest marches nor bans on neo-Nazi groups nor crackdown on immigration have been able to stamp out the racist hate that is haunting Germany.

Now, after arsonists killed five Turks in the worst of the current wave of racist attacks, Germans are at a loss to know what to do next.

"I've got so much advice today on what to do, but it all seems like cheap backbiting," a shocked and saddened Johannes Rau, premier of North Rhine-Westphalia state where the Solingen murders took place, told ZDF television on Saturday evening.

More police or further bans on neo-Nazi groups can do little against "what goes on in people's heads," he said. Mr. Rau seemed most dejected when he admitted that the candle-light marches, anti-racism protests organised by ordinary citizens around the country last winter had only temporarily stopped the violence against foreigners.

"But still, we must hold them," he implored his listeners.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, the most active member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's cabinet in denouncing neo-Nazi attacks and standing by their victims, was also at a loss for answers.

The hundreds of thousands

turning out for the marches had begun to stem the racist tide, he said, adding: "I thought...it wouldn't happen again."

Disoriented by unexpected challenges from their hasty unification in 1990, many Germans watched in horror as racist riots began in earnest in Hoyerswerda in September 1991.

A week of violent attacks on a Rostock asylum seekers' home in August 1992 prompted calls for tougher laws and a barrage of embarrassing criticism from worried voices abroad.

Mr. Kohl's government had one response — a constitutional amendment to tighten Germany's liberal asylum laws and choke off a flood of immigrants now running at 440,000 a year.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) disagreed but were far too weak and divided to come up with a counter-strategy. A firebombing at Moelln in November 1992, which killed three Turks, galvanised politicians and the people.

After months of pleading insufficient evidence, Bonn quickly banned three neo-Nazi groups and the federal prosecutor took over investigations into extremist violence.

Starting in Munich in early December, city after city staged "lichterketten" (chains of light) marches to show the outrage most Germans felt.

Shamed and concerned, schools, churches and political



This woman cannot hide her feelings as she breaks down in tears Saturday at the scene of a fire which killed five Turkish women and young girls (AFP photo)

parties launched into an impressive array of grass-roots projects meant to bring Germans and foreigners closer together.

It all seemed to be working well but Eckart Werthebach, head of Germany's internal security service BFV, felt compelled to warn that violence could flare again.

"The current fall-off in the number of acts of violence does not imply a drop in the number of right-wing extremists," he told Reuters in mid-May.

In a bleak commentary on

Saturday evening, ZDF television said: "We've been fooling ourselves. Decent people can soothe their consciences with candle-light marches but those protests do nothing against the irrational hate in some people's heads."

The most effective strategy against racist violence has emerged in Saxony, the eastern state that two years ago looked like it was becoming the neo-Nazi capital of United Germany.

State Interior Minister Heinz Eggert, an outspoken Protestant pastor and former

East German dissident, formed a police squad called "Soko Rex" that regularly raids suspects' homes and vigorously follows up every report of an attack.

His success has made Eggert nationally known and helped him become a deputy chairman of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU).

But his methods are so unabashedly tough that most Western politicians — possibly more worried than the unconventional easterners about the image of Germans opting for firm police action — have shied away from copying them.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Pakistan provincial parliament dissolved

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — The governor of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province dissolved the provincial parliament Sunday, a day after the governor of most populous Punjab province called new assembly elections, officials said. Political analysts said the two dissolutions in under 24 hours raised fears the two other provincial parliaments would be dismissed to try to force new general elections after the supreme court restored Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last week. Governor Amir Gulistan Janjua dissolved the 83-member assembly on a request from Chief Minister Mir Afzal Khan, the press secretary to the chief minister said. Asked the reason for the dissolution, the secretary said: "God knows why this has been done." Mr. Afzal Khan would continue as caretaker chief minister until elections in 90 days, he said. The dissolutions marked a declaration of war against Mr. Sharif after he won a legal battle reinstating him and restoring the National Assembly Wednesday, five weeks after both were dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the analysts said.

### Japan reports 68,000 illegal immigrants

TOKYO (R) — Japan forcibly deported a record 68,000 foreign nationals for illegal entry or employment without proper permits in 1992, nearly twice as many as ever before, news reports said Sunday. A Justice Ministry report said the number of deportees last year far exceeded the previous high of about 36,000 set in 1990, according to the daily Mainichi Shimbun and other papers. Ministry officials attributed the sharp rise to increased use of false passports and visas, as well as a flourishing trade in the smuggling of Chinese and other Asian nationals into Japan by boat, the reports said. By nationality, Malaysians accounted for the largest number deported (14,300), followed by Iranians (14,000), South Koreans (13,900) and the Thais, Filipinos and Chinese. The ministry report said the majority of deportees, about three quarters, had been earning daily wages ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 yen (\$45-\$90). Another 15 per cent raked in between 10,000 and 30,000 yen (\$90-\$273) daily, it said.

### Belgium declines comment on Libya visit

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium refused to confirm a report Sunday that its trade minister had visited Libya, the object of U.N. sanctions because of its refusal to hand over suspects in connection with the two bomb attacks on airlines. The Libyan news agency JANA reported that Belgium's Foreign Trade Minister Robert Urbain met Libyan Minister for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Omar Mustafa Al Montasser in Tripoli Saturday and then left Sunday. A Belgian foreign ministry spokesman declined comment on the report but said Mr. Urbain was on holiday in Tunisia. JANA gave no details of the visit but said Mr. Urbain had underlined the importance of cooperation between the two countries on his arrival for the 24-hour visit.

### Hostages in Sri Lanka threaten to fast

COLOMBO (AP) — Dozens of policemen held by Tamil guerrillas threatened to fast until death unless the government acts to win their release, a newspaper said Sunday. The fast will begin June 13, their third anniversary in captivity, the 39 hostages said in letters to relatives and a prominent Buddhist priest, the state-run Sunday Observer said. The Buddhist priest, Madampagama Assaji, visited the Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna Peninsula in northern Sri Lanka in April 1992 and met with guerrilla leaders and the captives. His effort failed. Kenneth Fernando, the bishop of Colombo, visited Jaffna in January and managed to secure the release of two policemen. The government did not sponsor either negotiation, and in their letters, the hostages blamed the government for not doing enough to free them. The hostages, who include one soldier, are all members of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

### Fifth Sino-British talks to be held in mid-June

BEIJING (AP) — The fifth round of Sino-British talks on Hong Kong elections have been scheduled for June 14-16, the official Xinhua news agency reported Sunday. The two sides have been trying since late April to work out an acceptable arrangement for Hong Kong's last elections under British rule. However, four rounds of talks have made little progress. The British-appointed governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, enraged China when he proposed last October expanding voter participation in local government elections in 1994 and 1995. Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule in 1997. China responded by breaking off diplomatic contacts for six months. It insists it has the right to replace any legislators it does not like after 1997, even though their terms run to 1999. But Britain wants assurances that legislators would be allowed to finish their terms.

### French soldier killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — A French soldier was killed in a shooting accident this week while serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Somalia, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday. He said Second Lieutenant Huan de Penanster was hit by a round fired from a French armoured personnel carrier travelling behind him on the outskirts of Baidoa, northwest of Mogadishu, on Wednesday. He was taken to a French army hospital in Baidoa but was dead on arrival, the spokesman said. He was part of 1,070-member force that France has contributed to the U.N. operation in Somalia mission to keep the peace in a country ruined by clan war and starvation.

### Taiwanese protest against nuclear plant

TAIPEI (AP) — About 5,000 people marched through Taipei streets Sunday to demand that the government halt construction of a fourth nuclear power plant in Taiwan and find safer ways to generate electricity. Shouting "no nuclear, save Taiwan," the protesters began the five-hour peaceful demonstration with a rally at a baseball stadium. "The government should respect the choice of the people. There are safer and cleaner alternatives than nuclear power," said Shih Hsin-Min, chairman of Taiwan Environmental Protection Union, which organised the protest. Mr. Shih said many advanced countries have halted construction of nuclear power plants for safety reasons. The government has said a new nuclear power plant was needed to help ease an electricity shortage. The demonstrators included lawmakers, students and residents from the coastal village Kunliao, the site in northern Taiwan where construction of the plant resumed last year after a seven-year suspension because of protests by environmentalists. It is scheduled to be completed in seven years.

### Kuwait may write off car loans

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is set to pay off car loans owed by thousands of its citizens, the Arab Times reported Sunday. The move, affecting about 40,000 Kuwaitis, would be further compensation for hardship experienced as a result of Iraq's 1990 invasion of the emirate. Outstanding debts owed to car finance companies stand at about 158 million dinars (\$520 million), according to reports. The English-language newspaper, quoting an unidentified official, said the government would start paying the debts after the 'Eid Al Adha holiday, which ends June 5. Most people who bought cars on instalment before the Iraqi invasion refused to resume payment after the 1991 liberation either because their cars were stolen or damaged or because they felt that car debts, like other loans, ought to be paid by the government.

### Russian soldiers killed in border attack

MOSCOW (R) — Three Russian soldiers were killed and four were injured this weekend when a border detachment on the Tajikistan frontier was shelled and attacked from Afghan territory, ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday. TASS quoted initial reports by the Russian border guard that Afghan and Tajik detachments attacked the 11th section of the Moscow border guard detachment on Saturday evening after a barrage of artillery fire. The attack, by several armed groups, was beaten off in a four-hour firefight. The soldiers were killed when a mortar shell scored a direct hit on a trench. TASS said measures were being taken to reinforce the border section with Tajik government guards.

## COLUMN I

### Radicals threaten to disrupt Japan royal wedding

TOKYO (AP) — A radical leftist group has threatened to disrupt a parade after Crown Prince Naruhito's wedding next month, news reports said Sunday. The extreme leftist Kakurokyo, or Revolutionary Workers' Association, threatened to "wage an armed uprising" to disrupt the parade on June 9, when Prince Naruhito is to marry fiancee Masako Owada. The threat was delivered to several major Japanese media organisations Sunday. The several-hundred member group claimed responsibility for an arson last Monday at the home of Toru Nakagawa, a former ambassador to the Soviet Union who helped introduce Prince Naruhito to Miss Owada. No one was hurt in the fire. Kakurokyo and a handful of other extreme leftist groups strongly oppose the monarchy as an anachronism and have frequently used firebombs and crude, home-made rockets to attack targets related to the imperial family. Police are planning extremely tight security for the wedding and parade, in which the royal couple are to ride several kilometres through downtown streets.

### Killer of British woman sentenced to 15 years in France

BEAUVAIS, France (AP) — A court in northern France has convicted and sentenced an X-ray technician 15 years in prison for the gruesome murder of a young British tourist he tried to rape. Prosecutors had called for the maximum life in prison for 26-year-old Frederic Blancke, but the jury at the court of Oise cited attenuating circumstances for the lesser sentence. The husband of Fiona Jones, who Mr. Blancke killed on Aug. 14, 1989, called the trial "pantomime" and the sentence a "joke." "Hell is waiting for you," one of her brothers yelled after the verdict. Mr. Blancke said he was distraught over the breakup with his girlfriend when he tried to sexually attack Mrs. Jones as she bicycled in a woods near the chateau of Compiègne, 60 kilometres north of Paris. Mrs. Jones, 26, of Kingsbury, England, fought back. Mr. Blancke, who called his crime "an abominable act," testified that he beat her and tried to strangle her, leaving her for dead. When he returned to the site late that night after work to dispose of her body and hide and evidence, he found her still alive. He killed her by slitting her throat, then buried her, he said. Her husband, who was designing a nearby golf course, notified police of her disappearance, setting off a painstaking search that tracked down Mr. Blancke from a shoe he left behind and the white car he drove.

### Russia drops anti-gay law

MOSCOW (AP) — Male homosexuality is no longer a crime in Russia, and gay activists hope the repeal of the Soviet-era law will improve Russia's ability to combat AIDS. A decree repealing Article 121, which made consensual sex between men punishable by up to five years in prison, was signed by President Boris Yeltsin and approved by lawmakers on April 29. It took effect last week. "This is a wonderful event. We've waited a long time for them to change the law," said the editor of the Russian gay and lesbian magazine Risk, which was founded in 1990 and has a circulation of 20,000. He uses the pseudonym Vladimir Oranov for fear of discrimination.

### Philippines launches campaign against smoking

MANILA (R) — Thousands of non-smokers, some carrying cardboard coffins, marched through Manila Sunday to launch a government-backed campaign against smoking. Philippine Health Secretary Juan Flavio told rallyists he had prepared an order banning smoking in all state hospitals after a survey showed 67 per cent of male doctors and 36 per cent of female doctors were smokers. "What is worrisome is that 37 per cent of all doctors smoke in front of their patients," he said. Mr. Flavio said half of the adult population of the Philippines' 63 million people were smokers. One Filipino died of lung cancer every 12 minutes last year. The rally marked the start of a week-long anti-smoking campaign dubbed "No Tobacco Week." It coincides with International "No Tobacco Day" Monday. "Kiss a non-smoker and taste the difference," said a placard carried by one woman marcher.